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Mubarak and King Fahd call for restraint; Klibi dashes to Kuwait Iraqi allegations distortion of facts; Kuwait sends rejoinder to League

Sabah calls for Arab arbitration panel for border demarcation
UAE describes accusations baseless; Libya for fact-finding mission

KUWAIT, July 20, (Kuna): Kuwait yesterday expressed dissatisfaction at the Iraqi memo handed to the Arab League secretary-general July 15, which included unfounded allegations and accusations against Kuwait.

Kuwait said, in a memo sent by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber to the Arab League chief yesterday and asked to be circulated among member states, that it received with profound surprise the Iraqi memo.

The Kuwaiti memo said that what was included in the Iraqi memo "does not



Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Nasser

Cairo rejects criticism

PLO, Iraq irritate Egypt

CAIRO, July 20, (AP): Adding to the latest woes in inter-Arab relations, Palestinian and Iraqi criticism of Egypt has caused "surprise and displeasure" in Cairo, government officials said.

resolved quickly and quietly and not be allowed to escalate. The disclosure came the day after a crisis erupted between Iraq and Kuwait over oil.

Editorials in the Friday editions of three state-owned newspapers angrily rejected the Palestinian and Iraqi criticism, but all urged that the issue be

The Egyptian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity for diplomatic reasons, said attacks on Egypt were made last weekend at a meeting of the Arab League Council in Tunis, capital of Tunisia.

AL, PLO plead not guilty

War of words

TUNIS, July 20, (Reuters): The Arab League and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, answering criticisms in the semi-official Egyptian press, said on Friday they were innocent of the charges.

The editor of al Gomhouriya, one of Egypt's main state-owned dailies, accused Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi today of fueling Gulf tension by leaking details of Iraq's complaints against Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The Arab League said in a statement it was surprised at the accusations, since it was well known that the secretariat had merely distributed the Iraqi letter to Arab states as Iraq had requested, and that the Iraqi media had published it.

The PLO, answering Egyptian comments on a controversial speech PLO chairman Yasser Arafat made to Arab foreign ministers on Sunday, said some media had tried to distort Arafat's words.

A PLO official source released a bland summary of the closed-door speech and denied that Arafat had attacked former Egyptian prime minister Nahhas Pasha.

Egyptian newspapers said Arafat told the ministers that in 1949 Nahhas Pasha advised the Palestinians to abandon the Wailing Wall in East Jerusalem to the Jews.

Currency Rates

THE Central Bank of Kuwait currency rates against the Kuwaiti dinar on July 19, valued for July 22, 1990.			
Currency	Buying	Selling	
US dollar	285.980	290.830	
Sterling	326.600	329.250	
Deutsche mark	176.050	176.700	
Swiss franc	205.000	205.800	
French franc	052.450	052.700	
Italian lire	0002405	0002420	
Japanese yen	001960	001975	
Bahraini dinar	769.050	771.550	
UAE dirham	078.900	079.200	
Saudi riyal	077.300	077.600	
Qatari riyal	079.600	079.950	
Omani riyal	752.900	755.700	

Asian currency exchange rates against Kuwaiti dinar.			
Currency	KD	GOLD PRICES	KD
Indian Rs (1,000)	16.650	One kg. 999	3,405.000
Pak. Rs	13.400	One kg. 995	3,390.000
Sri Lankan Rs	7.240	22 kt. per gm.	3,500
Singapore dollar	160.600	18 kt. per gm.	3,450
Hong Kong dollar	37.400	10 tola gold	398.000
Bangladesh taka	6.690	One ounce gold	111.000
Philippine peso	12.650		

Courtesy: Abdulaziz & Ali Al Yousif Al Muzaini Co.

The dollar traded quietly Friday after a brief early flurry centred on the yen.

Gold was slightly weaker after a day of little movement.

In Tokyo, the dollar rose to a closing 148.35 Japanese yen from 147.60 yen at Thursday's close. Later, in London, it rose to 148.90 yen.

In London, the British pound fell to \$1.8140 from \$1.8155 late Thursday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Thursday.

1.6410 West German marks down from 1.6430

1.4070 Swiss francs, down from 1.4090

5.5045 French francs, down from 5.5100

1.8485 Dutch guilders, down from 1.8500

NEWSWATCH



Brando's daughter

The daughter of US film actor Marlon Brando was charged in the French territory of Tahiti on Wednesday with complicity to murder her boyfriend.

Magistrate Max Gatti said Cheyenne Brando had been charged and was free to move around Tahiti although she was not allowed to leave the French Polynesian island.

The maximum sentence for complicity to murder under French law is life imprisonment.

Brando's son Christian has already been charged with the murder of 26-year-old Dag Drolet, Cheyenne's Tahitian boyfriend, during an argument in their father's Hollywood mansion in May.

Cheyenne Brando gave birth to a son on June 30, soon after arriving in Tahiti from Los Angeles.

Story Page 3

Iranian pilot defects to Saudi Arabia: An Iranian pilot accompanied by his wife, three small children and sister-in-law, flew to Saudi Arabia in a helicopter today and requested political asylum, the Saudi Defence Ministry announced.

In a statement distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency, an unnamed ministry spokesman said that at 6 am (0300 GMT), the air defence warning system detected a "target" that was flying at very low altitude over the international waters of the Arabian Gulf and toward our territorial waters. (AP)

Honasan calls for truce: A rightwing rebel leader urged President Corazon Aquino today to suspend the hunt for mineurs to allow the nation to devote its energies to rebuilding its quake-devastated areas.

In a statement released to news agencies, cashiered army Col Gregorio Honasan proposed a "temporary and finite moratorium period" in the operation against him and his estimated 150 followers.

Philippine rebels free 2: Communist guerrillas today freed two businessmen kidnapped 19 days earlier on Negros island, but gave no hint on when they would release a Peace Corps volunteer and a Japanese rural technician, official said.

Businessmen Joel Tan and Wellington Uy were released in Calatrava town in Negros, 300 miles (480 km) south of Manila, at 3 am to a lawyer, Dick Aguirre, military officials, who demanded anonymity, said. (UPI)

Indo-Pak talks end: Two days of confidence-building talks between India and Pakistan ended late yesterday with little to show but an agreement to meet again in two weeks. (AP) — Page 9

V.P. Singh confident: Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said today his government had emerged stronger after last week's power struggle with his deputy and would complete its five-year term.

US delays defence meeting with Israel

WASHINGTON, July 20, (AP): The United States is postponing an annual meeting with Israeli representatives to review joint defence projects, but officials say the move is not related to US efforts to prod Israel into accepting peace talks with the Palestinians.

The talks, known as the joint security assistance programme, were scheduled to be held in Washington next week.

The US postponement took Israeli officials by surprise, coming as it did shortly before the director general of Israel's Defence Ministry, David Levi, and the new Defence Minister, Moshe Arens, were scheduled to arrive in Washington, said a source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A State Department official said the postponement was caused by the budget meetings under way between the administration and congress, which he said have created some uncertainty about the amount of money that will be available for foreign aid.

The session with Israel was to focus on US aid for fiscal year 1992 that starts Oct 1, 1991. "We still don't know what our budget will look like then, how can we discuss it with the Israelis?" said the State Department official.

Israel is the largest recipient of US aid, getting \$3 billion annually in military and economic assistance. "We are not seeing any signals," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said Israel had agreed to the US suggestion that the talks be held in September.

Secretary of State James A. Baker has been pressing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to agree to peace talks with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Shamir has resisted the pressure and Baker has in recent weeks displayed marked impatience.

The postponement came as Israel's new Defence Minister, Moshe Arens, was scheduled to arrive in Washington for talks with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney.

Israeli and US officials insisted Arens' visit was not connected to the postponement of the talks despite the fact that it had only been officially announced yesterday.

Israeli officials said Arens had taken Cheney up on an invitation delivered by telephone soon after Arens took office last month.

But other officials said Arens was anxious to discuss with Cheney the question of continued US financing for the Israeli-developed Arrow anti-missile project.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Israel would never accept US-imposed terms for Middle East peace which were against its security interests.

Secretary of State James Baker has scheduled a meeting in Washington Aug 9 with David Levy, the new Israeli Foreign Minister, diplomatic sources said today.

The meeting, could set the stage for a new drive by the US administration to propel Israel into talks with Palestinian Arabs.

Oil market

— Page 15 —

they govern Arab ties."

"What doubles our surprise is that this memo comes from Iraq at a time the two countries continue co-ordination in the various fields and also come at a time Kuwait exerts its good offices, and on all levels, to strengthen security and stability in the region," the Kuwait memo underlined.

The Kuwaiti memo went on saying that it is regrettable that the Iraqi memo alleges that Kuwait worked toward undermining Iraq, at a time everyone knows Kuwait's supporting stance of Iraq.

"And everyone knows how much Kuwait suffered from this national stance, as it came under direct attacks, which targeted its sons, land, oil installations, oil tankers and its trade interests," the memo said.

"It is really sad when twisted aims cloak our facts, doing injustice to a history that we are living and which its ink has yet to dry up," the memo added.

It affirmed that Iraqi allegations on the gradual and programmed advancement toward Iraqi territories is "falsification" of reality and facts, as Iraq has a long record of documented transgressions on Kuwaiti territories.

Kuwait also called for the formation of an Arab League arbitration panel on the demarcation of borders between the two countries, on the basis of treaties and documents concluded between Kuwait and Baghdad.

As regards to oil prices, the Kuwaiti memo noted that Kuwait suffered as much as Iraq did from the slump in production during the 1980s when Kuwait could have produced larger amounts of oil, in comparison with its huge reserve.

On the Iraqi allegation that Kuwait pumped oil from the southern part of Al Rumailah oil field, the Kuwaiti memo affirmed that the said part of the field is part of the Kuwaiti territories.

It said that production operations take place inside the Kuwaiti territories, while Iraq is still drilling fields inside Kuwaiti territories, inflicting serious damage to the reserve of the Kuwaiti part of the field.

Kuwait also expressed readiness to study the Iraqi proposal, calling for the establishment of a fund for Arab aid and development. "But what Kuwait does not understand nor approve that the said proposal comes (with other allegations) to undermine and offend it (Kuwait)."

(Continued on Page 10)

President for life: Iraq's Parliament says it wants President Saddam Hussein to be president for life, the official Iraqi News Agency reported yesterday.

Saddam has ruled with a rod of iron since July 1979, when he took over as president from Gen. Ahmed Al Bakr. He had served as vice-president under Bakr for 10 years and became the effective strongman of the Baathist regime.

INA said that the 260-member assembly proposed changing a new draft constitution that said presidential elections should be held for the first time since Iraq became a republic in 1968, with the head of state serving an eight-year term.

Saddam has said he will run in the election, but so far there has been no mention of any challengers.

The assembly, which has been dominated by the ruling Baath Party for the last two decades, Wednesday ended a special three-day session to debate the new constitution.

INA said the assembly proposed other changes in the draft constitution, but only mentioned the proposal to make Saddam president for life.

State-controlled newspapers said the 250-member National Assembly (parliament) had approved a draft constitution under which Saddam would be elected president for life. (AP)

Iraq-France accord: Iraq and France have reached a new agreement on rescheduling about \$1 billion of debt due this year, it was reported.

According to the economic daily 'Les Echos', under the terms of the accord, Iraq will immediately pay some \$273 million in several instalments while the remainder will be rescheduled for payment over a six-year period commencing in 1993.

Hezbollah-PLO showdown raises fears of possible Israeli intervention

HOUMINE, Lebanon, July 20, (AP): A showdown in south Lebanon between Lebanese Shiite Muslim fundamentalists and Palestinian fighters raised fears today of possible Israeli intervention in the flashpoint region.

After suffering three dead, Palestinian forces surrounded a position of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah near Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone", police reported.

A head on collision seems inevitable since the Palestinians have become an active party in the conflict among the Shiite factions, said a police spokesman in the provincial capital, Sidon.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation fighters became involved when they intervened in an effort to end the five-

day-old fighting between Hezbollah and the pro-Syrian Amal militia.

The spokesman said three Palestinians were killed and seven wounded by Hezbollah fighters who made grenade-throwing forays against the fighters who had surrounded them overnight in their "eagle's nest" redoubt in the village of Jarjou.

The spokesman said following the Hezbollah grenade attacks the PLO rushed 200 more fighters with a dozen multi-barrelled rocket launchers to the Jarjou area from its main bases near the port city of Sidon.

The reinforcements beefed up the 600-strong PLO force dispatched Tuesday into Iqlim Al Tuffah, or the apple

province, in a vain bid to halt a new round of Hezbollah-Amal fighting.

The inter-Shiite clashes in Jarjou and a cluster of surrounding villages overlooking Israel's self-designated "security zone" left 70 people killed and 232 wounded, by police count.

Lt. Col. Anwar Madi, commander of the PLO intervention force, confirmed the Palestinian casualties in the Hezbollah attacks. "We have shot and killed or wounded many of them," he added.

Madi spoke to reporters at his headquarters in the village of Houmine, two miles (3 kms) from Jarjou.

The overnight casualties raised the overall losses of the

Palestinians since their intervention on Tuesday to four dead and 12 wounded.

"My forces are closing in on Jarjou from three directions and have come to within 100 yards (metres) of Hezbollah's frontline," Madi said.

He declined to say whether the advance heralded a ground onslaught to dislodge Hezbollah fighters from Jarjou, 3 miles (5 kms) north of the Israeli-held enclave.

The police spokesman said only the personal intervention of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani could avert the threatened PLO-Hezbollah showdown.

British scientists track down 'sex-determining' gene

LONDON, July 20: Scientists have isolated a gene they believe decides the sex of all mammals and is probably the core sex-determining trigger for human beings, Nature magazine reports.

The leading scientific journal said the discovery had been made by geneticists from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Medical Research Council. The British scientists believe the discovery has applications in agriculture and medicine, particularly cancer research, it said.

"We are very delighted to publish these papers which are, in my opinion, likely to be a landmark," Nature editor John Maddox told reporters. "It has

been a long, often frustrating and really rather exciting hunt."

The blueprints for all life on this planet are written on proteins called RNA and DNA. In mammals, the data is compiled on genes, which are configured along the minute string of protein that are termed chromosomes.

Scientists discovered in 1959 that female mammals usually have two X chromosomes, but male mammals generally have one X and one Y chromosome, making the Y chromosome the sexual-determining mechanism.

However, they did not know which part of the Y chromosome caused sex-

ual development in embryos by acting as they trigger that led to the growth of male sexual organs.

Before testicles appear — at about two months in pregnancy for humans — female and male embryos are indistinguishable.

The geneticists, who attended the Nature magazine press conference to announce the find, said they believed they had located the crucial sex-trigger, a gene they labelled the SRY.

"What we were looking for was a gene which is present on the Y-chromosome which is responsible for making males," said Peter Goodfellow of the London-based ICRF.

"So far, the new (SRY) gene satisfies all predictions we can make," said Robin Lovell-Badge, head of the MCR team, which studied the gene in mice. "This is an extremely promising candidate... however, we don't have absolute proof yet."

Researchers now plan to insert SRY genes into the embryos of XX chromosome mice.

"If SRY is the sex-determining gene, it should be able to convert XX specimens into males," said Lovell-Badge, who added that the experiment would be conducted in a few weeks.

Goodfellow said the SRY gene could possibly change the sex of a human

embryo, but warned that any males produced through such manipulation would be sterile because complete male sexual development requires other genes.

"These are not experiments that we would ever condone in humans," he said.

The ICRF and the MCR have already taken out patents on the new gene, which Goodfellow said could have practical applications for cattle farming because it could induce the birth of bulls, which have more beef.

The cattle industry could increase its output by 30 per cent, he said.

Elton tops UK chart for the 4th week

LONDON, July 20 (AP): Elton John held the top spot on the British pop singles chart for the fourth week with his *Sacrifice-Healing Hands*.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Our Price Music Ltd, the national music retail chain, with last week's places in parentheses:

1. (1) Sacrifice-Healing Hands — Elton John (Rocket-Polygram).
2. (2) One Love — Stone Roses — Silverstone-Zomba.
3. (5) You Can't Touch This — M.C. Hammer (Capitol EM1).
4. (3) Nessun Dorma — Luciano Pavarotti (Decca Polygram).
5. (10) Money — Craig McLachlan and Check 1-2 (Epic-CBS).
6. (6) Close to You — Maxi Priest (10 Records).
7. (7) Coops Up — Snap (Arista-BMG).
8. (9) Thunderbirds Are Go — F.A.B. Feet M.C. Parker (Brothers Org.).
9. (4) World in Motion — England-New Order (Factory-MCA).
10. (8) I Must Have Been Love — Roxette (EMI).

In New York, The New Kids on the Block had their *Step by Step* planted firmly again — for the fifth straight week — at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Step by Step — New Kids on the Block (Columbia).
2. (3) She Ain't Worth It — Bobby Brown (MCA).
3. (6) Hold On — En Vogue (Atlantic).
4. (11) Enjoy the Silence — Depeche Mode (Sire-Warner Brothers).
5. (5) I'll Be Your Shelter — Taylor Dayne (Arista).
6. (7) Cradle of Love — Billy Idol (Chrysalis).
7. (2) I Must Have Been Love — Roxette (EMI).
8. (3) Do You Remember — Phil Collins (Atlantic).
9. (4) Ready or Not — After Seven (Virgin).
10. (13) When I'm Back On My Feet — Michael Bolton (Columbia).

The top 10 country-and-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) On Down the Line — Patty Loveless (MCA).
2. (1) The Dance — Garth Brooks (Capitol).
3. (5) The Richest Man on Earth — Paul Oakenfold (RCA).
4. (8) When I Call Your Name — Vance Gill (MCA).
5. (7) Good Friends, Good Whiskey, Good Lovin' — Hank Williams Jr. (Warner Brothers).
6. (6) He Talks to Me — Lorrie Morgan (RCA).
7. (11) Good Times — Dan Seals (Capitol).
8. (16) I'm Gonna Be Somebody — Travis Tritt (Warner Brothers).
9. (9) Wrong — Waylon Jennings (Epic).
10. (10) This Side of Goodbye — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).

In Los Angeles, the top album, based on Billboard's survey of sales and broadcast play was... Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em — M.C. Hammer; 2. I'm Breathless — Madonna; 3. Step by Step — New Kids on the Block.

KALAMA, Washington: What do you do after accidentally blasting your own car with a bulldozer?

In the case of Mike O'Neil, an equipment operator for the Port of Kalama, you unplug your home telephone so you don't hear people who laugh at you or ask whether the rumours are true.

O'Neil said he couldn't see where he was going when the accident happened Tuesday.

"I was dragging a large log out of the way and I had to go up an incline in the roadway bank," O'Neil said Wednesday. "I had the blade raised up high."

Then he noticed pieces of his Datsun emerging from under the 12-by-5-foot blade and tracks.

"Not a good feeling," O'Neil said. "I backed up a bit hoping it wasn't as bad as I thought it was."

O'Neil said his car would have a large flag waving over it when he is at work. (AP)

NEW ORLEANS: At 22, with Olympic fame behind her, gymnastics has finally become fun for Mary Lee Retton.

"Now I perform, I don't compete and that makes a real difference," Retton said.

Retton was the sensation of the 1984 summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Her gold medal, in the all-around competition, was the first ever for an American woman gymnast.

"When we were practicing for the Olympics, we spent eight hours a day in the gym," she said Monday. "The time in between practice, we were too tired to do anything else."

"If you want to be successful you give up your social life. You give up everything except gymnastics," she said. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Reebok has dropped Madonna as spokeswoman for the athletic shoe company before she filmed a single commercial.

The company and the pop singer had agreed but, not signed, as the contract was worth \$5 million, the Los Angeles Times reported.

But Bernadette Mauser, Reebok's vice-president of marketing communications, said, "Madonna's availability and our need to get her weren't a mesh."

Madonna is currently on a world tour and publicists at Creative Artists Agency had no immediate comment Wednesday.

Last year, Pepsi signed a \$5-million contract with Madonna. But the soft-drink maker took her commercial off the air because some people confused it with her *Like a Prayer* music video, which contained religious imagery some found offensive. (AP)

INTROD, Italy: Pope John Paul II reached the roof of Europe, blessing the continent from Mont Blanc, the Italian news agency Ansa reported.

John Paul vacationing in Italy's western Alps, was taken by helicopter on Tuesday near the top of the tallest peak in the Alps, the report said.

He donned a windbreaker, fur hat and sunglasses and stayed about 20 minutes to admire the view from 15,510 feet (4,727 metres) on the Italian side of the mountain shared with France, Ansa said. (AP)

WASHINGTON: Arnold Schwarzenegger will represent US President George Bush at Saturday's opening of the Goodwill Games in Seattle.

Schwarzenegger, who stars in the hit movie *Total Recall*, is chairman of the president's council on physical fitness.

The games are an international athletics competition. The first Goodwill Games were held in Moscow four years ago. (AP)

ANAHEIM, California: Walt Disney placed pennies to open Disneyland, but it paid off for Art Linkletter.

Money was so hard to obtain in 1955 that Linkletter was paid only union scale to be host of a one-hour telecast of the theme park's opening.

However, the radio and television star (*"Kids Say the Darndest Things"*) said he persuaded Disney to throw in an extra that repaid him handsomely — concession booths for film and cameras. He had the concession for 10 years.

"(It was) the highest-priced performance any performer, I'm sure, ever got, considering the worth of that — a couple of million dollars," Linkletter said Tuesday after a ceremony celebrating Disneyland's 35th anniversary. (AP)



High Fashion

A Chanel model wears a yellow vest over a crêpe woolen skirt during a high fashion Autumn Winter 1990-91 preview on Wednesday. The high fashion shows start on Sunday in Paris. (Reuter wirephoto)

New 3-D movies debut at Expo '90

OSAKA, Japan, July 20 (AP): A new film technology that seems to pull moviegoers right into the screen has debuted at the Osaka, Expo '90.

Children snatched hands together as they tried to "pop" bubbles that appeared to float toward them. Other viewers ducked as balloons seemingly burst in their faces.

The film, which shows simulations of microscopic life processes beginning with photosynthesis in plants and ending with blood sugar's dizzying trip through human veins, is being shown to thousands of viewers each day at the Expo's Fujitsu pavilion.

It is one of several high-tech works produced by the Canadian firm Imax Systems Corp. in co-operation with Japanese partners.

Fujitsu's film, "Echoes of the Sun," shows strong imprints of both partners. Many of the visual images in the movie were produced with computer graphics developed by the major Japanese electronics firm.

A Fujitsu supercomputer — a computer that handles extremely large inputs of data at very high speeds — was used to make the stunning images of plant cells, muscle fibers and atoms that float at the audience from the bowl-shaped screen overhead.

It was also used to synchronize the two separate images used to produce a vivid sense of the three-dimensional.

Imax is a pioneer of giant-screen film technology. Its films all use a 70-millimetre film format, with each frame 10 times the size of conventional 35 mm films, special projectors and six-channel sound systems.

Its new technologies involve the use of multiple or custom-designed screens to give viewers a sense of leaving their seats to travel with the camera.

The Fujitsu theatre is premiering the first full-colour film using Imax Solido, a bowl-shaped screen like that of a planetarium. Viewers wear goggles with lenses made of liquid crystal diodes, like the face of a watch or computer screen, that react to sensors in the two projectors used to show the left-and-right-eye views of each scene.

Since vision usually involves the combining of separate views from each eye into a single, three-dimensional image, the 20-minute Solido film gives a very vivid 3-D impression. The screen extends beyond the peripheral vision of the audience and seems to disappear.

Water seems to splash into the seats, feathers from a pillow float through the air, and the female — showing a loincloth-clad Kodo drum troupe from Sado Island in the Japan sea — thunders muscled through the theatre.

Another Imax film debuting at the Osaka exposition is Imax Magic Carpet. It does not require goggles, but it involves two 18-by-25-metre (59.4-by-82.5-foot) screens — one in front of the audience and the other underfoot, but visible through a transparent floor.

In keeping with the theme of the Osaka International Garden and Greenery Exposition, "Flowers in the Sky" at the Sanwa Midori-Kan (green hall) documents the migration of monarch butterflies from Canada to Mexico, where they winter.

While it isn't a 3-D film, synchronised images above and below also give viewers a strong sense of floating through the air along with the butterflies over lakes and forests, above Niagara Falls and across the Gulf of Mexico.

Chuck Berry charged

Singer accused of child, drug abuse

ST CHARLES, Missouri: Authorities charged rock 'n' roll great Chuck Berry with child abuse and possession of marijuana based on evidence seized in a raid on his home last month.

Three charges of child abuse allege that Berry, 63, made films of nude youths under age 17 for sexual gratification. A fourth charge alleged possession of more than 35 grammes of marijuana.

William Hannah, St. Charles County prosecutor, announced the charges yesterday. His office said he would comment further.

In a raid last month at Berry's estate near Wentzville, about 40 miles (64 kilometres) west of St. Louis, authorities said they turned up several plastic bags of marijuana, some hashish, two 22-calibre rifles and a shotgun, plus \$122,000 and various pornographic videotapes, slides and books.

Berry's telephone number is unlisted and calls to the office of Berry's attorney, Wayne Schoenberg, went unanswered yesterday.

After the raid, Schoenberg had questioned the basis for Hannah's investigation.

He said he believed the investigation was related to a lawsuit filed in December by a former cook at Berry's Southern Air restaurant in Wentzville. She alleged he made videotapes of her and other women as they dressed, undressed and used the toilet in the women's restroom.

Last month, a class-action lawsuit was filed against Berry on behalf of 200 other women.

Last month's raid came after an informant told authorities Berry had received a large amount of cocaine and would have it at his home, court documents said. But police found no cocaine.

Berry, who made a surprise appearance at a news conference Hannah held after the raid, said he had never used cocaine.

SANTA BARBARA, California: Rock 'n' roller Joe Cocker, who lives a short distance from neighbourhoods ravaged by a June fire that destroyed more than 400 homes, will give a benefit performance for fire victims with Pat Benatar.

The "With a Little Help From Our Friends" concert was scheduled for July 31 at the Santa Barbara county bowl.

"Many of my neighbours and friends, people I have known for years, have been hurt by this tragedy," Cocker said Monday.

"Some of them risked their lives fighting the fire, and I want to return something to them... if I can do that with my music, I will."

Cocker's best-known recordings include "With a Little Help From My Friends," "The Letter" and "Delta Lady."

One person was killed in the blaze. (AP)

LAS VEGAS: "King of Las Vegas" Wayne Newton says he isn't offended that a hotel celebrated his 30th anniversary on stage 14 months late.

Newton, 46, first appeared at the Fremont Hotel on May 16, 1959. In those 31 years and two months since, he's played to 15 million people.

He was toasted in the Elvis Presley suite at the Las Vegas Hilton on Tuesday night as he began a new show there. He also appears in a new movie, "The Adventures of Ford Fairlane," and has a new record, "At This Moment."

This week also is the first time the Wayne Newton International Fan Club Inc., based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has brought together all its chapters for an annual convention. About 150 members plan to be in the audience for Newton's shows this week. (AP)

Brando girl accused of conspiracy in killing

PAPEETE, French Polynesia, July 20 (AP): Marlon Brando's daughter, who fled to the South Pacific after refusing to testify against her brother in the murder of her 26-year-old boyfriend, has been charged with conspiracy in the killing.

The victim, Dag Drolet, was shot to death May 16 at the actor's estate in the Santa Monica mountains near Los Angeles. The actor's son, 32-year-old Christian, is charged with the murder.

Brando's 20-year-old daughter, Tarita Cheyenne, went to French Polynesia after refusing to testify against her brother, according to deputy district who played his love interest in the 1962

remake of "Mutiny on the Bounty." Judge Max Catti on Tuesday accepted the charge of conspiracy against Brando's daughter, acting at the request of a lawyer for the victim's family. She was ordered not to leave French Polynesia.

It was not immediately clear whether she would be extradited to the United States.

Barbap, who is prosecuting the case against Christian Brando, told a California judge on June 25 that he would attempt to introduce statements by Miss Brando as evidence against her half-brother in a hearing later this month. He said the statements were made in a June 12 interview with

police.

Miss Brando returned to French Polynesia eight months pregnant with the child of her slain boyfriend. She was in a Papeete hospital undergoing treatment for nervous exhaustion.

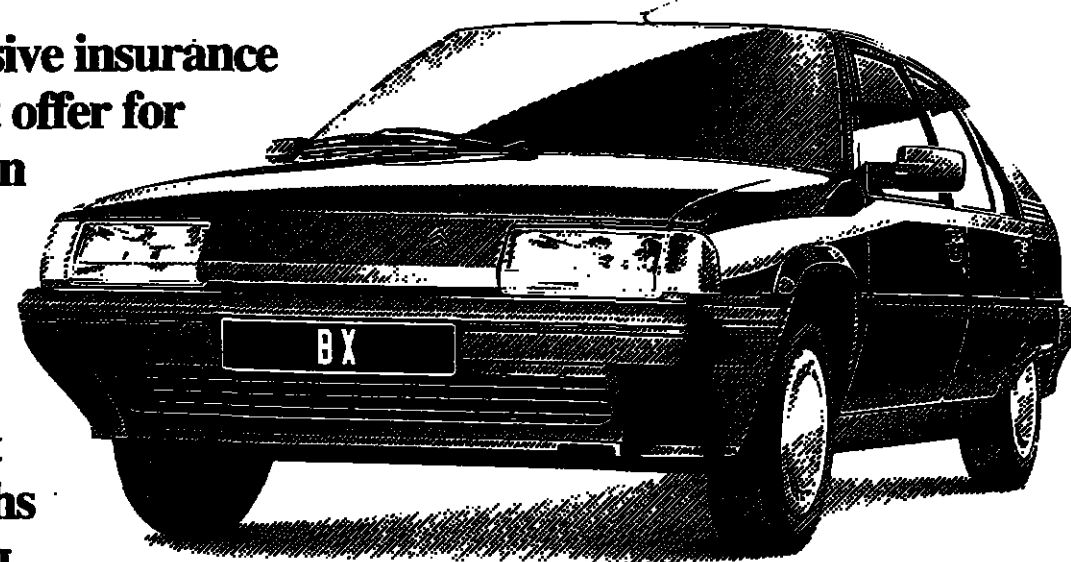
Her father maintains a home in Tahiti. The actor was home at the time of the slaying, but he was elsewhere in the house and did not see it. His son reportedly told police that Drolet died during a struggle over a gun.

Christian is the son of the actor and his first wife, Anna Kashfi. The couple was divorced in 1960. Their son was the subject of a bitter custody battle.

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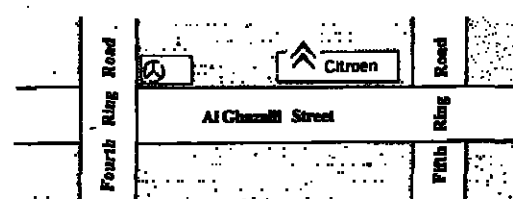
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INTERNATIONAL

Aids vaccine test on humans

CPFs check spread

LONDON, July 20, (Reuters): British scientists said yesterday they planned to test a potential Aids vaccine on humans later this year in what could be a breakthrough in preventing infection and slowing the onset of Aids in infected people.

The Medical Research Council and the pharmaceutical company British Biotechnology, which developed the vaccine, said they hoped to find 20 healthy volunteers.

"This is an important stage in the development of what could be a breakthrough in vaccine technology," said Biotechnology chief executive Keith McCullagh.

The Oxford-based company said animal trials showed the vaccine stimulated the production of antibodies which could neutralise the HIV virus which causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

"This trial represents the first human testing of British Biotechnology's virus-like particle technology which we believe has the potential of leading to the creation of a new generation of anti-viral vaccines," McCullagh said.

The company has used genetically engineered yeast cells to produce highly purified preparations of minute particles which resemble viruses in shape and size.

The non-infectious genetically engineered viruses have been modified to carry on their surface proteins from the HIV virus in the hope that these will stimulate the body to make antibodies against HIV and destroy it.

Aids breaks down the body's ability to fight disease by destroying the immune system. It is usually spread through sexual intercourse, infected needles, contaminated blood and from mother to child.

The company said it hoped to have some indication of how the vaccine was working after six months of trials which are due to begin in September, but it could take three to five years before a vaccine was widely available.

Meanwhile, a tiny, custom-made compound may provide a relatively cheap and easy blockade against the deadly impact of the Aids virus, researchers reported yesterday in Washington.

A team from Harvard University Medical School and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute said it has built small, synthetic molecules that can prevent the spread of Aids infection among cells grown in a test tube.

The molecules, called CPFs, act in a manner similar to soluble CD-4, an injectable Aids drug already being tested in humans, but are easier to make and should be able to given orally due to their very small size, researchers said.

Early tests of soluble CD-4 in Aids patients have not produced impressive results, and researchers say one problem seems to be the relatively short life of the natural protein in the bloodstream.

Both soluble CD-4 and CPFS have been shown to mop up the Aids-causing Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, in the test-tube by binding to the protein that HIV uses to enter key immune cells, called T-4 helper cells. By themselves, neither compound can attack HIV that is already inside infected cells.

Unlike soluble CD-4, which is a natural protein that mimics the door HIV uses to enter T cells, CPFS consist of protein building blocks not naturally found in the body. The synthetic structure, coupled with CPFS smaller size and tight binding power, means such compounds should be less likely to be broken down by the body's enzymes that CD-4 and therefore survive longer in the bloodstream, researchers said.

Another advantage CPFS drugs should have over soluble CD-4 is cost.

"They are really quite easy and inexpensive to produce," said Steven Burakoff, the Dana-Farber researcher who headed the study published in the Journal Science. Burakoff said "a major drug company," which he did not name, is "very interested in licensing" in CPFS.

Preliminary results of CPFS in laboratory mice show the compounds appear to be relatively non-toxic, Burakoff said.

Medical File

Cancer: The black fumes emitted by diesel-fuelled buses and trucks probably cause cancer in humans, according to the US government's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study released in Washington.

Although earlier studies have linked diesel fumes to cancer, the EPA study is the most authoritative confirmation yet of health dangers from the smoke that many city dwellers consider the most irritating and visible form of pollution.

Fewer than 2 per cent of US passenger cars run on diesel fuel. But most of the hundreds of thousands of heavy trucks and buses sold yearly are equipped with the durable, efficient diesel engines. Up to 20 per cent of highway vehicles in the United States are diesel. The figure is much higher in Third World developing countries. (Kuna)

Heart: The blood thinner Warfarin significantly reduces the risk of additional heart attacks and heart-related deaths in people who have survived a heart attack, a study concludes.

The research, conducted in Norway, found that the drug reduced the risk of death by 24 per cent and the risk of subsequent heart attacks by 34 per cent.

Since the study began seven years ago, doctors who treat heart attack patients have begun widely prescribing aspirin, which does essentially the same thing. No one knows for sure which is better. (AP)

Above-normal blood pressure: even if it is not high enough to qualify as hypertension, can permanently damage heart and blood vessels and increase the risk of heart attack, said a new study.

"Mild elevations of blood pressure are not as innocuous as we used to think," said the principal author of the study, Dr. Steve Julius, chief of the division of hypertension at the University of Michigan Wednesday.

"We found that even at blood pressures today not considered deserving treatment, some patients are having organ damage. Most of these patients are not being managed seriously," (Kuna)

Measles: High doses of vitamin A dramatically reduced the duration of measles and cut the death rate by more than half in a group of children suffering from a severe form of the highly contagious disease, a new study released in New York Wednesday found.

Measles kills about two million children a year, especially in Third World countries, despite vaccines that could prevent the viral disease. There is no specific treatment.

In the United States, the incidence of measles skyrocketed, increasing 423 per cent to 17,850 cases in 1989 from 3,411 cases reported in 1988, according to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. (Reuters)

Woman sues drug makers

RIVERHEAD, New York, July 20, (AP): A Long Island woman is suing the makers of the anti-depressant drug Prozac for \$150 million claiming the drug caused her to mutilate her own body and to attempt suicide.

Rhonda Hale of Shirley charged in her suit that the manufacturer, Eli Lilly and Co. of Indianapolis, failed to warn users that Prozac could cause an obsession with death and violence.

There are about 1.5 million people in the United States on Prozac, with 650,000 prescriptions written each month. An Eli Lilly spokeswoman, Marie Abbot, said the company is not removing Prozac from the market and said it has not been shown that the drug causes suicidal thoughts.



Two street children in Sao Paulo are part of Brazil's millions of impoverished youngsters. (Reuters wirephoto)

Urchins targetted

Gunned down in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 20, (AP): Death squads hired to "clean up the slums" are torturing and killing growing numbers of street kids in Brazil, often with the help of police, human rights activists say.

Officials who monitor child abuse say hundreds of deprived and destitute minors are murdered every year in Brazil. Police torture, rape and illegally arrest street children. Amnesty International said in a report entitled, "torture and extrajudicial execution in urban Brazil."

Death squads, generally off-duty or retired police officers fed up with impotent courts and turnstile, have operated in Brazil since the 1960s, when they executed known or suspected criminals and opponents of the right-wing military regime.

But observers are alarmed by a record surge of squad killings of young people across the country, especially in the cities of Recife, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

"The violence has never been this bad. Kids are being gunned down without question, as if they were wild dogs," said Rodrigo Sousa Filho, co-ordinator of the National Street Children's Movement in Rio de Janeiro state.

The brutality is a mirror of grinding poverty, family disintegration and police corruption that have worsened in the past decade as Brazil plunged into its worst economic crises ever.

Four-digit inflation, a \$114 billion foreign debt and deep cuts in social spending have left Brazil's educational and child welfare systems "functioning as revolving doors," said Sousa Filho.

A UNICEF study released in March said half of Brazil's 60 million children live in abject poverty. Some 12 million fend for themselves on the streets, up from an estimated 5 million in 1985.

In Brazil, children as young as 5 are put out on the street, said Pedro Menezes, spokesman for the Central Foundation for Infants and Adolescents, a child welfare agency.

Few last long in poorly equipped, low-security juvenile detention centres. Many run away or are simply released for lack of room.

To survive, street kids become beggars or petty thieves, said Menezes, but they soon learn they can triple their parents' monthly salary by running drugs, or joining organised crime groups.

Since minors under 18 cannot be brought to trial, they become especially useful to crime bosses. Teenagers help carry out kidnappings, bank robberies and cocaine deals, he said.

To fight back against the rising crime, small stores

owners pay death squads to wipe out criminals of all ages.

Children who are petty thieves are murdered for a price as low as \$40. The killings of a youth who runs drugs or heads a slum gang can cost as much as \$500, said one police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Racial prejudice is often a determining factor in the killings.

One study by the Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analysis said 82 per cent of street kids murdered by death squads were black or of mixed race.

"If a street kid is white, he's seen as cute and is pitied. But a black child is immediately thought to be a thief, a drug runner or a gang leader," said Paulo Rios, a worker in the Brazilian League for the Defence of Human Rights.

Official statistics are generally incomplete, but several studies show violence against minors is spreading across this nation of 150 million.

A recent study by the Health Ministry revealed that homicides of young people in Sao Paulo jumped from 280 in 1980 to 1,880 in 1989. In Rio, violent deaths of young people rose from 287 in 1983 to 630 in 1989.

The Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analysis, a private research centre, pulled data from newspapers and morgue files in 15 states to show death-squad killings of street children jumped from 65 in 1988 to 82 in the first half of 1989.

Other figures by the National Movement for Street Boys and Girls, which counsels abandoned children, show 333 street kids were killed by death squads in the cities of Recife, Sao Paulo and Rio last year.

Gilberto Dimenstein, an investigative reporter from Sao Paulo who interviewed some 300 street children in six major cities, estimates that at least one youth is murdered by death squads each day in Brazil.

In his best-selling book "The War of the Children," Dimenstein says that street children are eliminated because they often witness crimes by mobsters and police in violent neighbourhoods. The practice is known as "burning the files."

In his book, Dimenstein finds a youth slumped on a street corner in the northeastern city of Recife, and asks the boy if he is sick.

"No," the boy responds. "I took a bullet in my leg. The bullet is still in there."

"Why don't you go to the hospital?"

"I am afraid the police will find me," the boy says.

West accused of asylum plot

11 convicted; five Cubans testify

HAVANA, July 20, (Agencies): Cuba on Thursday released testimony by dissidents and would-be asylum-seekers who accused foreign diplomats of a plot to discredit Cuba through a failed asylum bid at the Czechoslovak embassy.

The testimony, in a programme screened by Cuba's state television, said an asylum bid by 14 Cubans at the Czechoslovak embassy in Havana last week was a planned provocation conceived by US and West German diplomats and carried out by the Czechoslovak mission.

It also suggested the Canadian embassy might have been implicated in the alleged plot, a charge strongly denied by a Canadian embassy spokesman.

A spokesman for the US interests section in Havana categorically denied any US involvement in the asylum affair, which has badly strained relations between Cuba and its former communist ally Czechoslovakia.

"There is no truth at all in any association of the US interests section with the events at the Czechoslovak embassy," a US spokesman told Reuters.

West German and Czechoslovak diplomats were not immediately available for comment. Other Western diplomats expressed doubts about many of the details of the testimony.

"There really are a lot of questions," one said.

The programme included testimony by two leading human rights activists currently in detention facing rebellion charges, Tania Diaz Castro and Pablo Pupo, as well as three Cubans who took part in the failed asylum bid.

"This action was pre-conceived to create conflict both nationally and internationally," one of the Cubans who appeared on the programme, Lazaro Angel Cabrera, said.

Cabrera was one of five Cubans who sought protection at the Czechoslovak embassy on July 9. They were granted protection by the embassy, which asked Cuba to allow them to leave the country.

They were later joined by two students and seven other Cubans. All 14 eventually surrendered to the authorities who said they would be allowed to go home after an investigation into what the government said was a deliberate provocation.

Pupo said the idea of the asylum plot originally came from Anna Evans, an official at the US interests section. Cabrera said a West German diplomat, Peter Schaller, had also known about the idea.

Diaz Castro, who like Pupo had been a leader in the illegal Pro-Human Rights Party in Cuba until her arrest in March, said: "It is evident that all came from the US interests section in Cuba." She said she was not testifying under duress.

A Cuban court, meanwhile, convicted 11 human rights activists of counter-revolutionary crimes on Wednesday and meted out sentences ranging from three to 15 years, the official Cuban news agency Prensa Latina reported.

The convictions came amid rising tension in Havana over a dozen Cubans who have taken refuge in foreign embassy compounds seeking political asylum. Cuban police have twice entered the grounds of the foreign missions to arrest asylum-seekers.

Spain recalled its ambassador to Cuba Wednesday following harsh criticism from the Cuban government to statements by Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez on the handling of the asylum-seekers.

A special security squad from Madrid was enroute to Havana to beef up security at the Spanish embassy, the Mexican government news agency Notimex said in a dispatch from the Spanish capital.

Cuban police entered the Spanish embassy compound on Friday in pursuit of a young Cuban asylum-seeker and arrested him. Three other Cubans are still inside the embassy.

On Tuesday, Cuban police arrested a man in the US diplomatic post in Havana.

Both Spain and the United States protested the incidents.

Prensa Latina said the 11 human rights activists were convicted of crimes ranging from terrorism and rebellion to having contacts with US officials in Cuba.



A Mohawk warrior takes a break from keeping an eye on the Mohawk blockade on route 344 at the entrance to the Oka Golf Club on Wednesday on the eighth day of a standoff with Quebec provincial police. The Mohawks say they will not ease up their occupation of the club or a bridge south of Montreal until certain demands are met. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mohawks urged to restart talks

Government ready

MONTREAL, July 20, (UPI): Canada's Indian Affairs Minister Tom Siddon urged militant Mohawk warriors yesterday in Quebec to lay down their guns and return to talks over a disputed parcel of land that includes ancestral Indian burial grounds.

Siddon told reporters at a news conference in Ottawa that the government was willing to purchase the disputed land — an 8-acre (3.2-hectare) parcel that the town of Oka wants to use to expand its golf course — and to acquire other property for Mohawks residing on the Kanawake Reserve.

Siddon made the statement hours after the Quebec government requested Ottawa to intervene directly in the dispute.

But the minister said he would not negotiate with Mohawks until natives put down their guns and dismantled barricades set up on the golf course in Oka and on the Mercier Bridge leading into the island of Montreal.

"Do you think the govern-

ment of Canada should ever be held hostage at gunpoint to this kind of process to resolve such complex issues involving the aspirations of our aboriginal people," Siddon said.

Siddon also said the government may be willing to expropriate the disputed land from the town of Oka if councilors there refuse to sell it.

Meanwhile yesterday, more than 100 Canadian Indian chiefs meeting at the Kahnawake Reserve, where other Mohawks organised a sympathetic road-block of the Mercier Bridge, said the week-long armed standoffs with police signal a new era of Indian militancy and warned of more bloodshed.

The standoffs began last week after a policeman was killed during a failed Quebec police assault against a roadblock at the golf course erected four months ago by Kanawake Mohawks adjacent to the town of Oka, about 25 miles (40 km) west of Montreal.

Drug lords planned terrorists' school

Medellin war flares

BOGOTA, Colombia, July 20, (AP): The Medellin cartel had planned to set up a school on a Caribbean island to train terrorists from around the world in return for access to drug markets, a leading Bogota daily newspaper reported Thursday.

El Tiempo, citing unidentified Colombian intelligence sources, said a retired Israeli army colonel, Yair Klein, had planned to help the Medellin cartel establish the school on the island of Antigua.

The story mentioned possible cooperation from Libya and elements in the Antiguan government.

The school never got beyond the planning stages, El Tiempo said. The plan was suspended earlier this year after security forces found a cache of Israeli-made weapons which had been smuggled into Colombia via Antigua, El Tiempo said.

The killing last December of Medellin cocaine boss Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha also put a dent in the plan, the newspaper said.

The Colombian secret police force has implicated Klein in the training of right-wing death squads on the payroll of the Medellin cartel.

The El Tiempo story did not say what intelligence service issued the report or how high ranking the source was.

The Association Press called the Defence Ministry, which is responsible for army and other military intelligence, the public affairs office said it knew nothing about any report on a terrorist school.

Authorities said the cocaine war in Medellin flared again. Five bombs exploded. Four police were killed. Lawmen and drug gangs fought a gunbattle. And the drug lords' propaganda chief was captured.

The violence in Medellin, Colombia's second largest city and home to the world's most powerful cocaine cartel, left at least seven people dead in all between Wednesday and early Thursday morning, a Medellin police spokesman said.

On Wednesday, the army captured Edgar Roberto Escobar Tardorade, considered the propaganda chief of the Medellin cartel, a military spokesman said.

Both spokesmen agreed to be interviewed on condition they not be identified.

Trains to zip along magnetic fields in US soon

High-speed, steel-on-steel rail systems also proposed

WASHINGTON, July 20, (AP): Federal railroad officials are predicting a new era in ground transportation where trains that zip over a magnetic field at 300mph (482 kph) can compete with air travel.

At least two magnetic levitation trains, or "maglevs," will be running in the United States before the end of the 1990s, Federal Railroad Administration Gilbert E. Carmichael predicted. His agency this week released a report on the technology.

In addition, Carmichael said, two or three high-speed rail, steel-on-steel systems could be built. The report said magnetically levitated trains that

float along at three-eighths of an inch (one centimetre) or more from a magnetised rail are feasible for the United States even without significant federal funding.

With planning for such systems moving ahead in several states, Carmichael said the US still may be able to take the lead in a technology on which the Germans and Japanese already have each spent \$1 billion to develop.

The German and Japanese systems operate differently than that proposed for the United States, with the Japanese train riding several inches above a stronger magnetic field.

The fiscal 1992 federal budget so far includes

\$12 million to study high-speed trains. Congress failed to act last year on a Senate committee study that recommended \$750 million over six years to develop a US Maglev Technology.

Because the trains float on a powerful magnetic field, there is no friction or wear and far less energy is consumed. It takes about as much electricity to run the German system as to aircondition it, Carmichael said, and the only pollution comes from producing the electricity.

Fares would be about 20 per cent below air fares, 40 per cent lower on some shorter routes, Carmichael said. In some cases, trips between major city centres would be faster than by plane,

since downtown stations would be used.

Maglev technologies are in competition with high-speed rail, which is a fast train that runs on special tracks, and with Swedish tilting trains that allow faster service on existing tracks without passengers feeling the curves.

The Maglev system is expensive — about \$50 million a mile on routes that could carry trains simultaneously in both directions. But the federal railroad administration report said costs could be offset by savings in highway and airport construction, pollution control, reduced travel delays and in the increased commerce the system would attract.

قزاقستان

Europe bored with UK 'nationalists'

British are in danger of being ignored

LONDON, July 20, (AP): In a veiled retort to criticism of the common market by extra-trade secretary Nicholas Ridley, EEC commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said the rest of Europe is growing bored with Britain's nationalist stance.

"For some people in this country, the European debate never seems to move on," he said. "There are countless urgent and important decisions to be taken about its future size, role and structure. The whole of Europe, indeed, is at a critical and exciting stage of its history."

"Yet too often Britain is marginalised

by those who continue to worry away at the move of government, and by those who perpetuate the caricature of what the community represents," he said in a speech last night.

The British people are perplexed by the mixed signals they receive. The best of Europe was first patient, later annoyed and is now frankly bored by such attitudes. We (the British) are in danger of being ignored.

Britain quit as Trade Secretary prime minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet in 1986 in a dispute over handling of the

ailing Westland helicopter company.

On Thatcher's nomination, he became one of Britain's two members of the 17-member executive commission of the 12-nation EEC in 1989. He is a Vice-President of the Brussels-based commission and the body's commissioner for competition policy.

Ridley resigned as trade secretary last week following publication of an interview in the weekly political magazine the spectator.

In the interview, Ridley said the West German government's support for

European monetary union was "a German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe," accused the French of acting like "poodles" to the Germans, and lambasted the commission and other EEC institutions.

Ridley withdrew the remarks within hours of their publication on July 12 but resigned two days later following a barrage of criticism.

Britain did not mention Ridley by name in his speech in London to an organisation of British legislators called the Bruges group.

Thatcher shrugs off cabinet crisis

Seeks fourth term

LONDON, July 20, (Reuters): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher shrugged off an embarrassing cabinet crisis caused by the resignation of a key minister and said on Thursday nothing could stop her seeking a fourth term and winning the next election.

"We will never run out of steam. When interest rates come down there can be nothing that will stop us," Thatcher told members of parliament from her ruling Conservative Party.

"I am entitled to ask for a fourth term on our record," she told the meeting.

Thatcher, 64, is the longest-serving British prime minister this century after more than 11 years in power.

£1.5 million

British lord wins libel case

LONDON, July 20, (Reuters): A former British general won a final legal battle on Thursday against a White Russian count who accused him of sending thousands of Cossacks and Yugoslavs to their deaths at the hands of communists in 1945.

Count Nikolai Tolstoy said he was abandoning an appeal against a jury's decision last November that he must pay a record £1.5 million (\$2.7 million) libel damages to Lord Aldington, who was a brigadier in World War II.

Tolstoy alleged in a pamphlet that Aldington, was an army officer in Austria, knew when he sent 70,000 Cossacks and Yugoslavs back to Stalin's Soviet Union and Tito's Yugoslavia at the end of the war, that "most would be executed."

Aldington did not contest the executions had taken place but said he did not realise the victims — soldiers who had fought with the Germans, along with women and children — were going to their deaths.

She told the committee to set up policy groups to help develop a campaign manifesto for an election which has to be held in 1992 at the latest.

Thatcher's political ally, Nicholas Ridley, resigned as trade and industry minister on Saturday after causing an uproar with fiercely anti-German comments in a magazine interview.

His departure was followed by an equally embarrassing leak of a confidential memorandum summarising a seminar held at Thatcher's country residence listing German characteristics as including "aggressiveness and bullying."

Political commentators predicted Ridley's departure would weaken Thatcher's grip on power and some speculated she might step down before the next election.

The opposition Labour Party alleged Ridley was expressing Thatcher's private views on European policy.

Thatcher's government has been forced to keep interest rates at over 15 per cent to tame inflation running at 9.8 per cent.



Patricia Anne Cahill, 17, (left) hides face while her lawyer holds her at Bangkok airport after Cahill and another British teenager, Karyn Joanne Smith, 18, were arrested for smuggling heroin. (Reuters wirephoto)

UK girls deny heroin charges

Two arrested in Bangkok

BANGKOK, July 20, (UPI): Two British girls denied charges of possessing more than 65 pounds (30.5 kg) of high grade heroin, claiming that a Chinese man tricked them into carrying two suitcases containing the narcotics, a police officer said today.

The two suspects, identified as Patricia Ann Cahill, 17, and Karyn Joanne Smith, 18, of Birmingham were arrested on Wednesday night at Bangkok airport.

Police charged them with possessing more than 65 pounds (30.5 kg) of heroin found in their

suitcases.

The officer, who asked not to be identified, said both girls insisted that a Chinese man approached them at a Bangkok discotheque and asked them to carry suitcases containing biscuits, tea and coffee.

"He (a Chinese man) said Cahill's boyfriend was waiting in Gambia and wanted the two girls carry these goods to him because they were rarely found in Africa," he said.

The officer said they claimed that they did not know the heroin

was hidden in the suitcases until customs officials arrested them.

The two teenagers told police that a friend of Cahill's boyfriend paid for the air tickets for the trip.

"Cahill greatly regrets that she persuaded Smith to come to Thailand with her," he said.

He said police took Cahill to the central observation and protection center for detaining juvenile suspects.

Smith will be detained at a local police station for further interrogation, he said.

Working in closed buildings is injurious to health: Swiss daily reports

GENEVA, July 20, (Kuna): A Swiss daily yesterday revealed that working in a closed building considerably increases one's chances of contracting a respiratory disease.

La Suisse said that many office buildings are 'sick,' the air one breathes inside them is worse than that which is inhaled during traffic congestions.

A company called 'Healthy Buildings International (HBI), specialised in the

problem of pollution inside buildings, has issued an advertisement saying, 'the building, inside which you work, could be sick and present a potential threat to your health.'

The exposure to such pollution is extensive, the daily noted, considering that one spends 75 to 90 per cent of their time within four walls.

A study conducted in Switzerland dealing with 810 administrative office build-

ings revealed that 18 to 31 per cent of the employees complain about having symptoms of respiratory ailments.

Most of the buildings labeled 'sick' are modern constructions, hermetic, and air conditioned. Buildings which have natural ventilation are considered healthier.

HBI pointed out that 62 per cent of the buildings inspected in Switzerland are inadequately ventilated, and more than 40

per cent had 'considerably high' levels of pathological bacteria.

'Treating the sick' buildings could also be a source of revenue, La Suisse noted, in the sense that rates of absenteeism would be reduced and the productivity of employees would increase.

Bacterial contamination is a serious problem in Switzerland, much more than in other countries, the daily further observed.

IRA strikes at London Stock

No one hurt in the morning blast

LONDON, July 20, (Reuters): The IRA bombed the London Stock Exchange today, striking at the heart of the British financial establishment and widening a guerrilla campaign of attacks on soldiers and politicians.

A City of London police spokesman said no-one was injured in the blast, which punched a hole in the 23-storey building and sent masonry and glass crashing on to the street just before the start of the business day.

"It seemed to be a fairly large device, that caused extensive damage to the first-floor visitors' gallery," Inspector Tony Thomas said.

The 200 workers in the glass and concrete building were evacuated within three minutes after a caller claiming to represent the guerrilla Irish Republican Army (IRA) phoned a warning to an international news agency.

Anonymous calls were received by the news agency at 8.02 am and 8.22. The bomb exploded at 8.49.

One caller, who spoke with an Irish accent, said: "This is the IRA. The bomb is due to go off in half an hour at the Stock Exchange."

He gave a codeword, known by police, which the IRA uses to prove its threats are serious and said: "Clear the building." The telephone warning was the first in the current bombing wave.

Anti-terrorist police rushed to the exchange and fire alarms were activated to evacuate workers, who dashed out into the street, some still wearing the jackets identifying their brokerage houses.

Dealer Warren Vede said the bomb "sounded like someone dropping a girder on a building site."

Commander George Churchill-Coleman of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad said he believed the bomb was planted in a men's toilet near the visitor's gallery, which had been due to open 10 minutes after the blast.

He said police were working on the assumption the attack was the work of a "terrorist organisation," the British authorities' term for the IRA.

The attack caused rush hour traffic jams in the financial district and forced emergency services to go on alert.

Sirens echoed in the district throughout the day as police responded to more telephone threats against several banks. Police said no bombs were found but transactions were disrupted when staff were evacuated.

Options are traded at the Stock Exchange but most stock transactions are now made via computer in brokerage houses. In a statement, the exchange said trading continued normally from member firms' own dealing rooms but the London Traded Options Market, which occupies a corner of the exchange's trading floor, had not opened for business.

Asked if there had been any panic inside the exchange building, one worker replied: "Good Lord no, we're British."

The Stock Exchange bomb came on the eighth anniversary of two of the IRA's most devastating attacks in London.

Eleven soldiers were killed and 53 people wounded when bombs exploded on July 20, 1982 during a cavalry parade in Hyde Park and under a bandstand in Regent's Park.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today: "She is appalled when people leave explosive devices in this manner in public areas."

Thatcher survived an IRA bomb which came close to wiping out her entire cabinet during a Conservative Party conference in the southern resort of Brighton in 1984.

Today's attack was the second against a civilian target in central London claimed by the IRA in the past month and the first bomb the group has planted in a financial institution since it renewed a violent campaign in mainland Britain in 1988.

"It's a new dimension, perhaps, to what is taking place at the moment," Churchill-Coleman told reporters outside the Stock Exchange.

A 19-year-old Dutch student has been taken into custody on suspicion of aiding IRA gunmen who killed two Australian tourists in May, police said yesterday.

FBI director 'optimistic'

LONDON, July 20, (AP): FBI Director William Sessions said on Wednesday he is "optimistic" that the terrorists who blew up Pan Am flight 103 more than 18 months ago will be caught.

Delivering the 1990 police foundation lecture at London's historic Guildhall, Sessions spoke of the "abominable crime" of terrorism.

A bomb aboard the Pan Am airliner exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec 21, 1988, killing all 259 people on board the Boeing 747 and 11 others on the ground.

A public inquest into the bombing is scheduled to begin Oct 1 in Scotland, but Scottish and US officials have said they have not developed enough evidence to prosecute anyone for the attack.

"I continue to be strongly optimistic that this horrendous crime will be solved, and those responsible brought to justice," Sessions said.

Share prices rise despite explosion

Options trading disrupted

LONDON, July 20, (AP): Trading went on without interruption on London's Stock Exchange despite an explosion today because share dealing takes place away from the exchange floor.

Share prices actually rose during the mayhem. By about 12.15 pm (1115 GMT), the Financial Times stock exchange 100-share index was up 11 points, or 0.5 per cent, at 2,398.3.

Since Britain's huge deregulation nearly four years ago, British and foreign shares have been traded via telephones and computers away from the stock exchange's modern tower in the heart of the city of London, the financial district.

The exchange building's largely deserted, ground-level trading floor

houses the London traded options market, and options trading was disrupted by the blast. Options are the right to buy or sell shares at a fixed price before a specific date.

An explosion in a restroom near the exchange's viewing gallery

caused extensive damage at 8.49 am (0749 GMT) this morning, 40 minutes after a telephone warning of an Irish Republican Army bomb, police said.

No injuries were reported because the building on broad street was evacuated before the bomb exploded.

Under the British stock trading system, "market makers" at scattered, designated investment firms make markets in different stocks.

The exchange requires them to quote prices continuously through the official trading day, which runs from 8:30 am (0730 GMT) to 4:30 pm (1330 GMT). Trading also is allowed to take place outside official hours.

The market makers' prices appear on the exchange's computerised price quotations system, Seag international.

The London market is Europe's biggest and forms part of the so-called "Golden Triangle" with Tokyo and New York.

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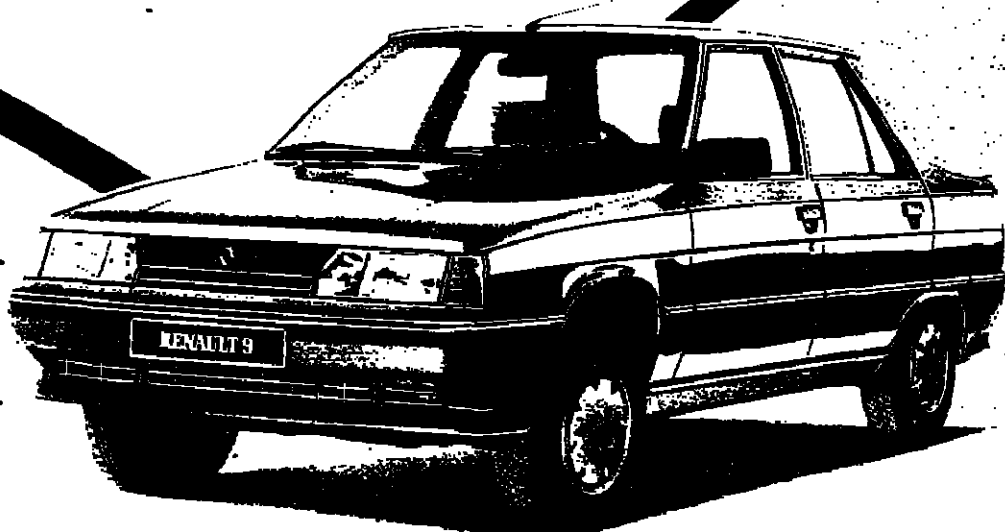
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Liberian rebels abandon dialogue

FREETOWN, July 20, (Reuters): Liberian rebels have abandoned peace talks, vowing to oust President Samuel Doe by force and to block any attempt to send in international peacekeeping troops.

Chief rebel negotiator Tom Woewiyu told reporters last night that a day of talks in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown with mediators from the 16-nation Economic Community of West Africa (Ecowas) had made virtually no progress.

"It would not be wise for anyone to tell us we should have a ceasefire, and that is what we have told Ecowas," Woewiyu said.

He said his delegation to this third round of peace talks would leave Freetown and return to Liberia at the weekend.

Woewiyu said the rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) would continue fighting until Doe had left the country, and warned other nations against trying to intervene.

"The National Patriotic Front will not lay down its weapons until Samuel Doe gets out and if there was any attempt at peace-keeping from any part of the world, we would not allow that force to enter," he said.

Proposed
Ecowas has proposed an interim government and the sending of a multinational peace-keeping force to Liberia to prevent tribal massacres. Prominent Liberians linked to Doe's government have called for US troops to intervene.

A US naval task force with 2,000 marines on board is standing off the coast of the West African state, ostensibly to evacuate the 700 Americans still in the besieged capital Monrovia.

Doe is holed up in the city of 500,000 people with the remnants of his indiscipline army. His soldiers have been looting shops and homes and killing civilians at random.

Rebel forces surrounded Monrovia, which has been without water or electricity for a fortnight, and fighting was reported within three miles (five km) of the city centre yesterday.

Diplomats regard Doe's military position as hopeless and say the collapse of his administration is only a matter of time.

Woewiyu said the NPFL would begin consultations with other political forces in Liberia. "Within the next two or three weeks we are going to hold a mass rally with all political parties... to seek a peaceful solution of our country," he said.

"Within that period Samuel Doe should get out or risk being arrested by the Front," he added.

In touch
Woewiyu said the rebels would stay in touch with the Ecowas peace talks mediators.

He said a trawler sailed from Freetown to Liberia yesterday carrying 50 more rebels who had received military training abroad.

It is widely believed among the NPFL that rebel leader Charles Taylor and some of his men received military training in Libya and Burkina Faso during the late 1980s, although Taylor publicly denies any Libyan connection.

Casualties

In Monrovia, witnesses reported seeing large numbers of government casualties in the Logantown area of Monrovia, near a rail station serving the Bong iron mines.

One witness reported a truck loaded with government wounded rushing towards the city's only working hospital.

The station, about three miles (five km) from the city centre, was the closest that the rebels have been to the heart of Monrovia since the lull.

Refugees trying to flee the encircled city towards neighbouring Sierra Leone were turned back by government troops at the outskirts.

While refugees have been turned back at the outskirts of Monrovia, up to 1,300 Lebanese have registered with the Lebanese embassy as wanting to leave on board a ship on its way from Tunis.

The ship has been chartered by the Arab League. "All the Lebanese want to leave," said one businessman.

Lebanese Ambassador Michael Bitard said: "We don't feel any direct threat but there's a great deal of looting taking place. Not only businesses but houses as well."

Taylor's forces have deliberately opened the 65-mile (105-km) highway from the surrounded capital to the Sierra Leone border to allow refugees to flee, military sources reported.

US search plane crashes in Baguio

Serviceman killed; quake toll rises to 659



A Filipino woman rushes to a waiting helicopter with her child as the Philippine Air Force began evacuating residents as aftershocks continued to hit. (Reuters wirephoto)

North rejects to open border

Roh's historic offer

SEOUL, South Korea, July 20, (AP): President Roh Tae-Woo proposed today to temporarily open the heavily guarded border between North and South Korea as a start to tearing down the last cold war frontier.

Just 10 hours after Roh's historic announcement, the official North Korean news agency issued a lengthy list of conditions that likely will have the effect of quashing the move.

It was South Korea's first offer to open the border to free travel since the end of World War II, and was made in response to North Korean calls for restricted access along the frontier.

"The time has come to end total division," Roh told a nation-wide radio and television audience. "Korea must not remain the world's only land still partitioned by cold war politics."

Roh had said South Korea would open its border at Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone beginning Aug 13. He said North Koreans would be allowed to freely visit anyone and any place in the South. He said foreigners could cross later.

Using unusually polite and restrained language, North Korea responded by calling on the South to demolish barriers along the border, repeal security laws that forbid travel to the North, and release prisoners jailed for making such visits.

Demands
It said that if those demands were met, North Korea "will believe what the South Korean authorities said is true and realise a partial travel through (the border) village of Panmunjom," the country's official news agency said.

South Korea's Unification Ministry confirmed North Korea's response, but declined to speculate on a possible next step. Ministry officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, interpreted the response as an initial rejection.

The South Korean prime minister's office said it sent a telephone message to North Korea on Friday morning explaining its proposal and suggesting that the two sides meet July 30 to work out details.

The two nations already are scheduled to meet July 26 to sign an accord setting the date and agenda for their first-ever prime ministers meeting, expected to be held in Seoul as early as August.

The sealed border between the divided Koreas is the last physical frontier of the cold war. More than one million troops are stationed on either side behind the concrete bunkers and barbed wire.

A move to allow free travel between the countries, even for a limited time period, would be a significant step in setting the stage for talks on unification of the peninsula. Both sides have said repeatedly they want to be unified, but mutual distrust has clouded the sporadic dialogue and little progress has been made.

Civil war

The Korean peninsula was divided into the communist North and capitalist South in 1945 at the end of World War II. The two fought a three-year civil war in the early 1950s, 43,000 US troops remain stationed in South Korea in attempt to help deter any future North Korean attack.

South Koreans welcomed Roh's announcement for allowing free travel with the North. Though hopeful, many did not expect the two nations to agree to such a move.

Both countries have talked about free travel, but have never directly negotiated it, each charging the other with using openings as a propaganda ploy.

Two weeks ago, North Korea announced it would open a small portion of its border at Panmunjom for restricted passage beginning Aug 15. But it said it would welcome only people desiring unification and said South Korea must abolish anti-communist laws.

North Korea, meanwhile, put forth a series of demands which South Korean officials took as its rejection of Roh's offer.

Opposition

South Korea's major opposition and dissident groups agreed to join forces Friday in a new party opposing the government of President Roh Tae-Woo.

The agreement came at a meeting between the presidents of the nation's two opposition parties and the head of a leading dissident political group led by Christian ministers.

Dissident

The prosecution demanded a seven-year prison term Friday for Kim Keun-Tae, a well-known dissident, for violating the national security law and leading violent demonstrations.

Po-Sun dies

Former South Korean President Yun Po-Sun has died from chronic illness, his aides said Thursday. He was 92.

Yun died Wednesday night one hour after being taken home from Seoul National University Hospital, where he had been treated since March for diabetes and hypertension, they said.

Khmer gains a sense of deja vu

WASHINGTON, July 20, (AP): The US government's abrupt change in policy toward Cambodia came after US intelligence reported that the feared Khmer Rouge guerrillas were making military gains shockingly similar to those that brought them to power 15 years ago, sources familiar with the reports said yesterday.

Intelligence analysts also have found, contrary to public assurances by the administration of President George Bush, that supplies the United States provided for non-communist rebels battling the Cambodian government often flow through supply lines controlled by the Khmer Rouge.

The analysis has been offered in briefings by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency for congressional oversight committees and interested executive branch officials, according to the sources, who requested anonymity.

The Khmer Rouge presided over a massive social experiment in Cambodia during its 3-1/2-year rule that resulted in the deaths of more than 1 million countrymen from execution, starvation and disease.

The Bush administration, apparently fearing the communist guerrillas' resurgence, announced Wednesday that it was withdrawing support for a UN seat for the three-party resistance that includes the Khmer Rouge, and was opening talks with the Cambodian government's Vietnamese sponsors.

The sources said US intelligence sees the events in 1974 and 1975 that led to the takeover of Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge as a virtual "model" for events occurring now.

Recent developments include attacks on provincial capital and other significant targets, a near-permanent Khmer Rouge presence in the northern part of the country and deeper penetration since Vietnamese occupation forces withdrew last year.

The stepped-up attacks by the Khmer Rouge, which has a troop strength of 30,000 to 40,000, threaten the Vietnam-installed government of Premier Hun Sen, and there are reports that in some instances the government's soldiers have stopped fighting, according to the analysts.

Soviet and Vietnamese aid to the Cambodian government has declined. While Phnom Penh remains a thriving capital, the economy in government-controlled parts of the countryside is fragile and inflation is rising, the analysts concluded. Some government workers and military personnel are not being paid, they said.

US intelligence believes that all the 140,000 Vietnamese troops who were in Cambodia have been withdrawn, with only a few advisers remaining.

The intelligence agencies estimate China's military aid to the Khmer Rouge at about \$100 million a year.

Other sources have said the United States provides \$13 million a year in covert aid to the non-communist resistance forces led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, together with \$7 million in overt, "non-lethal" aid. Singapore gives an additional \$10 million yearly.

US aid remains the subject of hot debate on Capitol Hill, where the Senate Intelligence Committee has voted to end the covert programme. Some congressional opponents of past US policy say it makes no sense to withdraw recognition of the resistance coalition while continuing to send aid.



A Filipino rescue worker rest in front of a collapsed garment factory in Baguio city. The rescuing operation was stopped after the factory caught fire. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fugitive leader held

Zhao rehabilitated

Rumours are rampant

BEIJING, July 20, (AP): Authorities have arrested a fugitive leader of last year's crushed democracy movement who later set up an underground organisation to agitate for reform, the student's university confirmed yesterday.

A student source, meanwhile, said a second protest leader was placed in solitary confinement for trying to organise a hunger strike among prisoners.

An official at the student affairs office of the Beijing Economics Institute, contacted by telephone, confirmed unofficial reports that fugitive student Zhai Weimin was jailed, but said she had no details. She did not give her name.

Zhai is the fourth Beijing student known to have been arrested without publicity in the past three months, even as the government tries to ease foreign criticism by announcing large prisoner releases. The other three were students at Beijing University suspected of involvement in underground activities.

The student source, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of official punishment, said Zhai was placed in Beijing's Qincheng prison for political prisoners in May.

That was just three months after Zhai held a secret conference in Beijing of his Democratic Front for the Salvation of China. Participants in the conference told foreign journalists at the time that more than 60 people took part.

The front was one of several small underground groups established across China after the communist leadership ordered an army attack on student-led demonstrators in Beijing on June 3-4 last year, ending seven weeks of widespread pro-democracy protests. Hundreds and possibly thousands of

people were killed. The underground groups generally sought to spread information supporting democratic reforms through pamphlets and make plans to act should protesters take to the streets again. It was not known how Zhai's arrest affected his group's operations.

Zhai, 22, from central China's Henan province, was a student at Beijing Economics Institute when the student protest movement began in April 1989. He quickly became one of its leaders.

After the army attack, the government issued a list of 21 most-wanted student leaders. Zhai, No. 6, already was in hiding.

Another protester on that list, Liu Gang, who has been jailed since June 1989, was moved to solitary confinement at Qincheng prison in May, the source said.

He said Liu had tried to organise fellow prisoners in a hunger strike on June 4 to commemorate the slain protesters.

Liu, 29, had been working at a research institute when the protests began but quickly joined the students.

Canada is eager to improve bilateral relations with China, but not until Beijing relaxes restrictions on basic freedoms, Canada's deputy foreign minister said.

Chinese leaders have been told that Japan will begin disbursing a five-year loan package frozen after last year's bloody crackdown in September, the Japanese embassy said.

earthquake, which measured 7.7 on the Richter Scale, the strongest tremor to hit the country in 14 years.

Officials said at least 224 people, including two Americans, were killed in Baguio alone. An additional 190 people were feared dead, believed buried in the ruins of seven hotels and in a factory in Baguio that caught fire after the quake, said Jose de Jesus, chairman of a presidential task force supervising rescue efforts in the mountain resort.

De Jesus said US Marines and Philippine troops had begun trying to rescue more than 100 people believed stranded on highways near Baguio.

Navy spokesman Bob Coble said US aircraft had been dropping food and water supplies over the area and were bringing an undetermined number of people to Subic Bay naval base for treatment.

President Corason Aquino said in a nationally televised address that her government was taking steps to alleviate suffering and rebuild areas devastated by the quake.

"Let us not blame others," she said. "Let us stop making snide remarks. What we need now is to help each other."

It was the president's first televised statement on the disaster and followed widespread criticism from survivors and the Manila news media about the government's ineffective response to the crisis.

Rescuers worked round-the-clock today after finding fresh human blood in a tunnel they dug under the rubble of the Hyatt Hotel in Baguio, a sign some people may still be alive in the ruins.

They pulled out the body of a woman and found the body of a man, which could not be immediately extricated from under tons of debris.

Electricity was destroyed to parts of the city except along the main road and to most of the damaged buildings. Many residents, fearing they will be buried in their homes by aftershocks, remained camped in makeshift tents in a park.

Heavy casualties also were concentrated in Cabanatuan, 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Manila, where more than 60 students and teachers were killed at the Philippine Christian College.

Rebel soldiers who spearheaded a coup attempt against Aquino in December today offered a truce to help relief efforts following Monday's earthquake.

"We call on the present leadership to set aside all political differences in order to squarely face this catastrophe," the underground Revolutionary Alliance of the Masses-Soldiers of the Filipino People said in a statement. (AP)

High school students were studying earthquakes when they got a practical demonstration that wasn't in the lesson plan: Their building buckled and collapsed.

Some of the survivors of last Monday's tremor said they were in class at the Philippine Christian College in Cabanatuan, 60 miles (100 kilometres) north of Manila, when the quake struck.

More than 60 students and teachers were killed in the quake. (AP)

Tornadoes lashed two villages outside Manila, hurling away houses, uprooting trees and leaving hundreds of people homeless, authorities said Wednesday.

Four people were hurt and some 52 houses were destroyed as a tornado roared through a village in Malolos, just north of Manila. Tuesday night, police said. (UPI)

In one of the world's most earthquake-prone nations, the study of tremors and their effects commands so little government attention that only one of its 12 seismic stations has a telephone.

The US geological survey said about 30 significant earthquakes have struck the Philippines since 1976.

Philippine ferry catches fire at sea

MANILA, July 20, (AP): A ferry carrying 750 passengers caught fire in the central Philippines today, coast guard and shipping company officials said. All of the passengers were brought safely to an island.

The 4,511-ton Super Ferry I owned by the Abotiz Shipping Co. caught fire west of the central Panay island about 368 kilometres (230 miles) south of Manila. The fire started around 1.30 pm (0400 GMT), nearly 15 hours after the ship sailed from Manila for Cagayan De Oro city in the south.

The passengers were boarded on life boats and brought to Pansay and then transferred to Kalibo Port, said Alfonso Cusi, senior vice-president of the shipping firm.

An explosion ripped through a passenger bus on Thursday in suburban Quezon city, wounding seven people, police said.

Police were investigating and said the blast was believed caused by a homemade bomb.

Bungling New South Wales police shatter public confidence, embarrass govt

SYDNEY, July 20, (Reuters): Shooting two innocent men and wrongly accusing a retired superintendent of 25 rapes are among a series of police bungles in the past 18 months which have embarrassed the New South Wales government.

The mistakes have shattered public confidence in the state police and undermined the conservative state government's commitment to improving law and order in Sydney, Australia's largest city.

In June, an innocent man was shot in the face after 14 heavily armed police from the Tactical Response Group (TRG) smashed their way into his house in an operation described by New South Wales Premier Nick Greiner as a

"monumental screw-up."

Earlier this month, a royal commission severely criticised police for arresting retired police superintendent Harry "The Hat" Blackburn who was charged with 25 vicious rapes last July and paraded before the media by triumphant former colleagues.

Charges were dropped last October after the director of public prosecutions said the attacker had a different blood group to Blackburn, who also had alibis for some of the incidents. Blackprint evidence in favour of Blackburn was not recorded.

"Mr Greiner says publicly that his government still has confidence in the NSW police force. But over the space of

just a few short months that confidence has been severely shaken," the Sydney Morning Herald said in a front page article.

For two years, New South Wales watched smugly as an official enquiry in Queensland revealed that state's force was "riddled with misconduct, inefficiency and a contempt for the criminal justice system."

In April 1989, the tables were turned when members of the Special Weapons Operations Squad (SWOS) of New South Wales, looking for a gunman who had shot two policemen, burst into the bedroom of 32-year-old David Gundy and shot him dead. Gundy, an aborigine, was innocent. His family never received an apology.

Last February, 135 officers, led by the TRG, stormed 10

aboriginal homes in the inner city Sydney suburb of Redfern.

Eight people were arrested on minor charges in the raid, labelled an "act of racist violence" in a special report by Australia's Human Rights Commission.

The shooting of Darren Brennan, 23, on June 17 was the last straw for many Sydney residents, including Greiner. Brennan was alone in his house when TRG officers armed with shotguns kicked the door down in the early hours of the morning.

Police claim Brennan struggled, which he denies. He was shot in the face and will need medical treatment for at least three years.



Mandela, is being congratulated by well-wishers in Johannesburg on his return home from a six-week tour

Mandela, De Klerk meeting imminent

JOHANNESBURG, July 20, (AP): The South African government and the African National Congress may soon clear the way for constitutional talks on ending white-minority rule, according to a report yesterday.

The Star newspaper, citing government officials, reported the two sides were close to clearing roadblocks, including an ANC demand for release of political prisoners. The report said ANC leader Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk were "likely to meet within days."

The Star is an English-language paper often critical of the government's apartheid policies, but supportive of De Klerk's changes.

The report came after Mandela returned Wednesday from a triumphal tour of 14 nations. Mandela said the world was behind the fight to end apartheid in South Africa and white-minority government could not last much longer.

"We return home full of hope for the future of our country," Mandela told cheering supporters at Jan Smuts airport Wednesday. "The world is with us in wishing for the speediest resolution to the country's problems."

"There is no doubt that apartheid is crumbling," he said. "As part of reforms by De Klerk, Mandela was released from jail in February and the ANC and other anti-apartheid groups were legalised. De Klerk has promised to end apartheid and share political power with the black majority."

Government officials said yesterday no date had been set for a meeting between Mandela and De Klerk, but they expected contacts fairly soon.

Mandela said he was optimistic the ANC and the government were moving toward an agreement to end apartheid and give blacks political rights.

"They are one with us in demanding the end of apartheid now," he said.

The government and the ANC are trying to clear the way for full talks after they held their first-ever meeting in May. At that meeting, they listed problems that must be resolved before negotiations on ending white-minority rule begin, including release of political prisoners and changes in security legislation.

Wednesday, Mandela ruled out any concessions on the ANC's refusal to end its armed struggle and accept a ceasefire until the government agreed to various conditions. The conditions include the release of hundreds of prisoners that the ANC says are held for political reasons.

"The agreement between the government and ourselves is as soon as the government has removed the obstacles to negotiations... then we would be prepared to consider the suspension of hostilities," he said at an airport news conference.

Mandela and his aides said the ANC had gained major political support on their six-week tour of North America, Europe and Africa, but they gave few details. Vast crowds cheered him at each stop.

On his return Wednesday, Mandela, looking tired, was greeted by about 200 supporters and relatives on his 72nd birthday. It was his first birthday in freedom after 27 years in prison for fighting the white-minority government.

The ANC said Mandela's return from neighbouring Mozambique was delayed several hours after anonymous threats were made against his leaders and his officers.

ANC officials said they received a message by facsimile saying: "July 18, 1990 the last day of freedom for the ANC inside the Republic of South Africa."

The message also claimed there were bombs on Mandela's flight and at the airport. Scores of heavily-armed police guarded the airport and searched for bombs, but reported finding nothing.

212 killed, 800 missing in Soviet ethnic clashes

Fighting, arson and pogroms between Uzbeks, Kirghiz of 'sadistic cruelty' continue, says Tass

MOSCOW, July 20, (AP): New fighting between ethnic Kirghiz and Uzbeks in Soviet Central Asia has driven the death toll to 212 in six weeks, and there have been cases of "sadistic cruelty," state media reported yesterday.

Reports are still coming in of fights, arson and pogroms," Tass reported. "Passing cars are being stoned. Barricades are being built."

On Wednesday, 204 people had been reported killed in the fighting, which broke out June 4 in western Kirghizia in a land dispute between the ethnic

groups, both largely Sunni Muslims who speak Turkish dialects.

Tensions in the region had eased during 40 days of mourning for those killed in the June fighting, but the violence flared again this week when the period ended.

Most of the fighting has occurred in the border town of Osh. This week's violence has shut down industrial enterprises and disrupted public transport, according to the Interfax news service. In the nearby town of Uzgen, which is predominantly Uzbek,

residents have demanded that Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov come to the region, it said.

Soviet authorities have bolstered the contingent of security troops in the region by sending Col Gen. Yuri Shatalin, commander of Interior Ministry troops, to the region. Tass reported.

The unrest has caused damage estimated at 40 million roubles (\$68 million) and left more than 400 people missing and possibly dead, the newspaper Rabochaya Tribuna reported.

Earlier, Soviet media had reported 800 people were missing in the area.

The newspaper said security police have been informed of 65 to 80 burials that have yet to be investigated. It added that there have been cases of "sadistic cruelty," although it was not specific.

Of the 212 dead, at least 132 are Uzbeks and 47 are Kirghiz, the newspaper said. It did not give the nationalities of the other victims.

About 1,200 people have been hospitalised since early June, it said.

In its report on the causes of the bloodshed, Rabochaya Tribuna said that unemployment has tripled in the region in the past five years, reaching 47,000 by the time the violence broke out.

Many of the jobs are youths who no longer want to live in rural areas and have flooded the cities and towns to look for housing, it said.

The newspaper also blamed the unrest on calls among ethnic groups that the indigenous population should prevail in urban areas. It said the Osh

region is made up of 60 nationalities. About 60 per cent of the population of the region is Kirghiz and 25 per cent is Uzbek, the newspaper added.

Although Uzbeks make up nearly half of the population of the city of Osh, there are no Uzbeks among its municipal and communist party leaders, the newspaper said.

Rebel Latvia is sending Premier Ivars Godmanis to the United States to seek support for the Baltic republic's independence from the Soviet Union.

Soviet economy needs help

US paves way for aid package

MOSCOW, July 20, (Reuters): The Soviet Union's economy needs Western help and President Mikhail Gorbachev may know by October what sort and how much help to expect, European Commission President Jacques Delors said Friday.

Delors, on his first official visit to Moscow, told reporters that experts from European Community (EC) headquarters in Brussels would visit Moscow in August to prepare a report on the Soviet economy, reforms and aid prospects.

The report is due to be completed by late October, before an EC

summit in Rome.

Gorbachev, after talks with Delors on Thursday, declared his perestroika reforms had reached a "critical moment" and appealed for Western economic support, saying it would benefit all mankind.

"We need to see right now real fruits of the realisation that perestroika is not only our business. It concerns all of us, it is in the interest of the whole world," Gorbachev said.

Delors, in his remarks on Friday, said Gorbachev and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov were committed to market-oriented reforms

to revive the crippled economy.

"They are now convinced that the march towards a market economy will be the best way of reviving the economy and of resolving the imbalances present in the Soviet economy."

EC leaders announced at a summit last month that they would consider financial aid for Moscow, but would wait for the report on the Soviet economy by the Commission, the EC's executive arm.

Delors, whose visit ends on Friday, said the Soviet Union "needs at least technical assistance."

He said he was struck by Gorbachev's grasp of the principles of market economics. "He knows what he is talking about."

"I think that by the end of October we shall know the content of reforms and the way in which they have been received," he said.

The EC visit was largely exploratory and Delors did not want to draw conclusions about the Soviet economy before the commission's study had been completed. But he said he was concerned that individual Soviet republics would create their own currencies.

Some Soviet republics are increasingly asserting their autonomy from Moscow but Delors said he believed monetary policy should be under central government control.

Prime Minister Ryzhkov is reviewing price and other reforms proposed earlier this year but not implemented due to opposition from the public and members of parliament.

The United States is quietly preparing the way to provide financial help to the crippled Soviet economy, US officials say.

The help, which could come later this year or early next year, would probably take the form of credit and investment guarantees and loans for specific projects, they said.

"We are moving forward to re-establishing regular commercial relationships that would be mutually beneficial," said one official, who asked not to be identified.

While that would fall short of the massive \$15-billion aid package for the Soviet Union being pushed by West Germany, it would be a major step beyond the technical assistance the United States has so far been willing to provide.

President George Bush has ruled out giving direct government loans but he has left the door open to export credits and other types of help.

Once the Soviet Union passes a bill allowing free emigration, the Bush administration is ready to take a series of steps that would allow Moscow to obtain credit guarantees and specific project loans, US officials said.

The bill has already had one reading in the Soviet legislature and is currently due for a second and final reading in September.

Washington is also pressing ahead with negotiations with Moscow to settle some \$1.5 billion in unpaid debts from borrowings by the tsarist government and provisional Kerensky government prior to the Bolshevik revolution of 1917.



No dialogue: Soviets

A Soviet government spokesman reacted strongly Wednesday to reports that US Secretary of State James Baker plans to open a dialogue with emerging opponents of the Communist Party.

President Mikhail Gorbachev's spokesman, Arkady Maslennikov, said providing aid to those parties "will be interference in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union and would hardly be tolerated."

The warning came amid new defections from the ruling Communist Party. Seven prominent members of the Soviet parliament announced that they were following the lead of reformers such as Boris N. Yeltsin who quit the party last week.

In addition, the editor of the glasnost weekly Ogonyok,

Vitaly Korotich, said that his newspaper would announce Thursday that it was severing ties with the Communist Party — which publishes the magazine.

Baker had said Monday that he did not think it was inappropriate for the administration of US President George Bush to "touch base with the opposition" in the Soviet Union — radical reformers such as Yeltsin who have split from the party — as it has with the opposition in other countries of Eastern Europe.

Above: Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin (right) makes a private remark to Deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Svetlana Goryacheva during a meeting with heads of local Soviets in Moscow on July 17. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev's mom bakes own bread

'He never visits'

MOSCOW, July 20, (AP): Mikhail S. Gorbachev's 79-year-old mother only recently got a new colour television to replace her old black-and-white set, still bakes her own bread and complains her son never visits.

In an unusually revealing story about the family of a Soviet leader, the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda reported yesterday that the only privilege given to Maria Pantelevna Gorbachev are the KGB agents who provide security down the road from the small house in the southern Russian village of Privolnoye.

The KGB is there not so much to guard her from journalists who flock to the farming village where the Soviet leader was born, but to keep ordinary citizens from pestering her with petitions to give to her son, the newspaper said, without detailing the complaints.

For decades, the private lives of Communist Party leaders and their families rarely appeared in the state-run media. But Gorbachev's glasnost policy has let journalists probe new areas, sometimes even those hitting close to home. Although the Western media have reported on Gorbachev's roots and his family, such things are new to Soviet readers.

Thursday's front-page article, titled "Home of the President," was complete with an old photograph of a young, plump Gorbachev reclining in a field wearing a jaunty beret.

Gorbachev's widowed mother, the newspaper said, still does the chores around the house and bakes her own bread, even though a collective farm bakery was built several years ago to feed the village's 3,000 people.

Not long ago, the newspaper recounted, a rumour spread that Mrs Gorbachev was moving to Moscow and selling her house.

Her neighbours were ready to make inquiries about buying her house, but she told Nikolai Dorokhov, her neighbour and secretary of the party organisation of the collective farm: "I have already lived in Moscow. I don't see my son here and I wouldn't see him there. He leaves home at 6 am and returns late in the evening... I will not go anywhere."

Albanian refugees recollect

CREIL, France, July 20, (Reuters): On a quiet military airbase tucked between beet fields north of Paris, Albanian refugees from the world's last Stalinist regime are grappling with fear and confusion a week after finding their freedom.

The 153 men represent one third of those who fled to the French embassy in Tirana to escape a government they say terrorises its citizens.

French soldiers and Red Cross personnel looked on in silence as the men spoke passionately in Albanian on Wednesday about their fears and problems.

Scatterings of French, English and Italian were their only way to communicate with the outside world. Fear for their families left behind haunts them and some see a long road ahead before they are integrated into Western life.

"My sister went to the German embassy and I went to the French embassy. I don't know when we can see and I haven't heard from her since then," said Uir, who said that giving his last name would endanger his relatives in Albania.

The men are learning French and about how to cope with life in the West while social workers try to find them jobs and homes. The group arrived at the camp on Monday after a marathon boat, train and bus journey.

Efforts by members of the exile Albanian community to welcome the refugees have been obstructed by political differences among the exiles and the 40-year international isolation of Albania.

Protests against parliamentary representation of ethnic Turks continue

SOFIA, Bulgaria, July 20, (AP): Nationalist protests against parliamentary representation of an ethnic Turkish movement continued Friday for the third day in several Bulgarian cities and towns with a strong Turkish minority.

The strikes that have paralysed factories, shops, public transport and business life in Kurdzhali and Haskovo in the south as well as Razgrad and other towns in the north are organised by the Committee for the Defence of National Interests.

The protests were directed against registration of the mainly ethnic Turkish Movement for Rights and

Freedoms as a party and against the presence of its 23 deputies in the new Grand National Assembly.

In a telephone interview, Vyacheslav Spasov, a member of the leadership of the committee, suggested the strikes may be called off if parliament revokes a declaration of Jan 16 in which it approved a government decision to return ethnic and religious rights to the 1.5 million-strong Turkish minority.

According to Spasov, the situation in Kurdzhali, a town of 60,000 with an ethnic Turkish majority, was unchanged, with protesters blocking the main bank, post office, railroad station and central bus

station.

Several villages around Razgrad and Shumen, other ethnic Turkish areas in northern Bulgaria, were also on strike. Nationalists threatened to strike in Shumen, but there was no word in Sofia as to whether they stopped work.

Supporters of the Committee for the Defence of National Interests in Burgas expressed support for the strikes and threatened to block Burgas airport. But it was not known whether they had carried out their threat.

Bulgaria's disgraced former leader Todor Zhivkov, who is under house arrest and facing a corruption investigation, will be allowed to address the Bulgarian parliament, the official news agency BTA reported on Wednesday.

The agency said 274 members of the Grand National Assembly voted to allow Zhivkov a hearing, although no date has been set.

Zhivkov has not been seen in public since his ousting by reformist communist leaders last November.

No final date on unification Germans in disarray

BONN, July 20, (AP): German unity headed down the home stretch yesterday as experts from the four World War II allies and the two Germanys huddled in Bonn.

But the Germans themselves scrambled in disarray over a specific date for their long-awaited merger.

East Germany's parliament failed to iron out a feud over whether to merge with West Germany a day before all-German elections expected on Dec 2 or immediately after the vote. The parliament in East Berlin postponed making a decision.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has said annexation to West Germany before the

vote would mean placing his people under a government not chosen by them, if only for a day.

But there is pressure from West Germany and from within De Maiziere's own coalition for the earlier merger date, since voting in a single state would preclude possible balloting complications resulting from the two nations' differing political systems.

The Free Democrats, junior coalition partners in West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government, pressed East Germany to make up its mind before next week.

Free Democrat chief Otto Lamsbörger said time is running out and any attempt to postpone a decision would be "very unsatisfactory."

East German lawmakers will meet in a special session on Sunday and are expected to decide on a date then.

Meanwhile, political directors from the two Germanys and the four World War II victors — the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain — met behind closed doors in Bonn to start drafting a document that would put the finishing touches on international aspects of German unity.

The six nations hope to have a draft of the document completed in time for the Sept 12 meeting in Moscow of those countries' foreign ministers.

Thursday's meeting in Bonn marks the final phase of the so-called "two-plus-four" process, a set of talks agreed to by the six nations as a means of ironing out international problems linked to German unity.

The two major hurdles were cleared earlier in the week when Moscow said a united Germany could be a Nato member and formal agreement was reached that the Germans would not try to claim land absorbed by Poland after World War II.

But the six nations still have to put together a comprehensive and detailed document specifying how, for example, to carry out the agreement with Moscow allowing a united Germany to join Nato.

The Soviet Union has given its blessing to Nato membership, but the price was a limited presence for Nato and exclusion of nuclear weapons in what is now East Germany. In addition, the Soviets will be permitted to keep Red Army troops on East German soil over the next three to four years.

Still to be worked out is how much involvement Nato can have with what is now East Germany. For example, say allied sources, will Nato be allowed to keep supplies on East German soil?

The six nations still also have to discuss what to do about a string of post-war treaties dealing with Germany, such as the 1971 quadripartite agreement signed by the Soviet Union, United States, Britain and France.

Such treaties have to be reconciled with new realities as the four World War II allies lift their post-war special rights in Germany.

A diplomat with one of the three Western allies, requesting anonymity, said the four powers are confident they can quickly reach agreement on a final document on German unification.

The goal is to finish the document in time for a Nov 19 meeting in Paris of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The Polish government said yesterday it will continue to seek compensation for Poles conscripted into forced labour by the Nazis.

The Polish side is "satisfied" with the results of discussion on the border issue during a conference on German unification this week in Paris, government spokeswoman Malgorzata Niczabitowska told a news conference.



Court hears Ceausescu recording

A recorded telephone call by executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, demanding his crumbling regime be protected at all costs, was played Wednesday at the trial of his seriously ill son, Nicu.

Nicu Ceausescu, the former Communist Party chief of the Transylvanian region of Sibiu, has pleaded innocent to charges he ordered security forces to open fire on revolutionaries last December in a clash that left 82 people dead.

According to defence lawyer Paula Jakob, Nicu Ceausescu may not live to hear the verdict because he suffers from hepatitis and chronic cirrhosis of the liver, described as "beyond medical treatment."

On the third day of the trial's second session, all eyes in the hushed courtroom were on the former heir apparent as a crackly recording of his father's voice echoed early. Ceausescu's sister (above Elena Barbolescu, 51, speaks in the dock of her trial in Sibiu town July 18. She is charged with embezzlement, complicity in embezzlement and abuse of privilege. (Reuters wirephoto)

Slovenia, Croatia to adopt constitutions

Ethnic Albanians under fire

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, July 20, (AP): The rebellious republics Croatia and Slovenia have taken steps to adopt new regional constitutions that would grant them virtual independence from the rest of the troubled Yugoslav federation.

Meanwhile Thursday, Serbian Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic said criminal charges will be filed against ethnic Albanian parliamentarians who proclaimed southern Kosovo province Yugoslavia's seventh member state.

Media reports said Thursday that the Slovenian parliament and Croatia's presidency on Wednesday gave the green light for the drafting separate constitutions calling for "full sovereignty."

Freely-elected leadership in both Croatia and Slovenia — Yugoslavia's two most prosperous member republics — have indicated they would secede if Yugoslavia does not become a loose confederation.

The reports said the new constitutions should be adopted by the end of the year, despite repeated warnings by the communist-dominated federal leadership and military that they would use "all available means" to preserve Yugoslavia's present federal system of six republics and two provinces.

But Slovenia's Premier Alojz Peterle dismissed the warnings and said that while democracy is taking hold in a part of Yugoslavia, "military exercises are being conducted as a threat against Croatia and Slovenia."

Peterle said the new Slovenian constitution would provide for establishment of an independent legal system taking precedence over federal laws. It would also give Slovenia full control over all armed forces stationed on its territory.

The People's Army, a weekly reflecting the views of the military leadership, said in its current edition that the establishment of a Yugoslav confederation would inevitably lead to border clashes and even all-out war among the republics.

In a move further threatening the country's fragile unity, Slovenia's parliament on Thursday denounced Serbia for its alleged human rights abuses in the ethnically tense Kosovo province.

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World News Roundup

Barry acquittal denied: The judge in Washington Mayor Marion Barry's trial Thursday denied the last of the defense's motions for acquittal, including one stemming from a sting operation in which the mayor was videotaped showing crack cocaine.

The defense then opened its case by calling as a witness one of Barry's security guards. Prosecutors interrupted the testimony of police Sgt. James Stays to charge he was involved with cocaine.

Assistant US Attorney Judith Retchn said she wants to question Stays "about his involvement with cocaine and Mr. Barry."

McCartney concert: Former Beatle Paul McCartney said Wednesday he never planned to get caught up in a meat-eating debate during his first concert in Iowa.

"We haven't come out on this tour to preach against meat," McCartney said at a news conference before the concert. "We're pro-corn, very pro-corn."

The concert created a stir throughout pork and beef country, along with a massive traffic jam in this central Iowa city of 45,000. Organizers expected the concert Wednesday night to draw 56,000 fans.

But an animal rights group's "meat sinks" campaign attracted most of the attention.

McCartney and his wife, Linda, a keyboard player in his band, are vegetarians. No meat or fish is served to the 180 people travelling with McCartney.

Hawaii Five-0: "The Manson Family," by John Moran, is billed as a "music drama" but it has no formal plot, the piece premiered Tuesday night in New York mixes the story of notorious mass murderer Charles Manson, references to a Greek tragedy and the 1970s television show "Hawaii Five-0," and a little surrealism.

The multi-media theatre piece takes off from, but does not exactly depict, the August 1969 murders of actress Sharon Tate and six other people by members of Manson's cult "family."

Machine vision: Although a robot eye to emulate human vision remains a distant dream, an emerging technology called binary optics promises to help replicate some of the eye's basic, scene-interpreting functions, revolutionizing machine vision, according to a study released in Washington.

There are eight kinds of eyes in nature — ranging from flies' multi-faceted eyes to human's fast-focusing eyes — and now researchers say they are working on the ninth.

Binary optics researchers say that the scene-interpreting functions, which will revolutionize machine vision, is just one of dozens of applications for the new technology.

Garbo's collection: Greta Garbo's art and antique collection will be offered in November for a targeted \$20 million, the auctioneer has announced in New York.

Garbo's estate authorized the Nov 13-16 sale of about 260 lots. Her personal effects are not for sale, according to the Wednesday announcement.

Garbo, who died April 16 at age 84, kept the paintings, including three Renoirs; 18th-century French furniture; decorative rugs; rare books; and continental, English and Chinese ceramics in her seven-room Manhattan apartment.

1990 US census: The US government is changing the way overseas military personnel are counted in the 1990 census to their home of record rather than their last duty station.

The Commerce Department recently announced the decision, changing plans that originally called for counting service members at the last military post where they were stationed for at least six months.

Ohio Congressman Tom Sawyer, chairman of the House Census Subcommittee, said he was "genuinely pleased... Americans who are living abroad temporarily while serving our country will not be represented fairly in Congress."

Overseas military personnel weren't counted in the 1980 census.

Lawsuit baseless: Industrialist Armand Hammer said Wednesday a \$700 million lawsuit that seeks his prized art collection was full of lies, generated by the greed of his late wife's sole heir.

Hammer, the 92-year-old chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corp., responded in an interview to the lawsuit filed in state court by Joan Weiss, the niece of his late wife Frances.

He had refused to comment when the suit was filed last week.

The suit says Hammer's fortune, and that of Occidental, was built on money provided by Frances, his third wife. It contends he tricked her into signing away her rights to property amassed during 33 years of marriage.

But Hammer said that waivers dating back to 1974 and tax returns from even further back will clearly show a court his wife intended to give up her joint property rights under California law.

Europe

Star-gazers gather in Finland: Thousands of astronomers are gathering in Finland for a fleeting glimpse of Europe's first total eclipse of the sun since 1981.

The sun will be obscured by the moon for 90 seconds from 4.52 am (0152 GMT) on Sunday.

The so-called zone of totality will stretch 440 km (275 miles) north-east from Helsinki to the city of Joensuu, Heikki Oja of the Helsinki University Observatory said on Thursday.

Finland has organized charter flights for star-gazers to see the eclipse which will not be repeated anywhere in Europe before 1999.

Oja said about 3,000 amateur astronomers from Europe, America and Japan were heading to Finland for the event.

Stockholm airport condom kiosk: Summer travellers are buying a thousand condoms daily in every size, shape and even flavour — from a new kiosk in the international departure hall of Stockholm's Arlanda airport.

"Kondomeria — Take Care, Be Safe," reads the sign over the kiosk which is financed by the Swedish government and run by the country's Association for Gay and Lesbian Rights as part of a holiday-season AIDS-awareness campaign.

Spanish police seize hashish: Spanish police said on Thursday they detained an Italian after finding 600 kg (1,300 pounds) of hashish hidden inside a van he was driving.

The van was stopped on Wednesday night on the motorway from Valencia to Barcelona. Police said the drugs were probably brought into Spain by sea from Morocco.

Cigarettes are not drugs: A chain smoker may be addicted, but cigarettes are not drugs, according to the Swiss supreme court.

The Federal Tribunal made the interpretation in a ruling upholding the decision by a lower court which ordered a health insurance company to pay 18,400 Swiss francs (\$12,850) sick-benefit money to a heavy smoker who had fallen ill.



Mandela turns 72

Nelson Mandela, celebrating his 72nd birthday upon his return home from a triumphant international tour, says he feels half his age.

"I feel like a boy of 36, and the present I would like to have is votes for all," said Mandela, who looked tired after his six-week tour of 14 nations, including the United States.

Mandela was greeted by about 200 supporters and relatives on Wednesday, his first birthday in freedom after 27 years in a South African prison for fighting the country's white-minority government.

The African National Congress leader said he hoped to see President F.W. de Klerk in the next few days to set up talks leading to full-scale negotiations on ending apartheid.

"There is no doubt that apartheid is crumbling," he said.

Row over Soviet cash British miners sue Scargill

LONDON, July 20, (Reuters): British coal-miners, seeking to recover funds donated by Soviet colleagues during a bitter strike five years ago, decided on Thursday to sue their own maverick leader, Arthur Scargill.

A simmering row over an estimated one million dollars collected by Soviet miners but never received by hard-pressed miners' families in Britain has threatened to topple Scargill from his post as president of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Scargill, 52, who led the NUM through the ill-fated year-long strike that ended in March 1985, has denied wrongdoing and accused political enemies on the right wing of using the affair as an excuse to drag him down.

The once-powerful NUM is fighting to contain a decline in membership and a series of pit closures.

The NUM executive committee said in a statement on Thursday it was suing for the recovery of various sums including about £1.4 million (\$2.5 million) from the Soviet Union, East Germany and other East European nations.

Greek publisher sentenced: An appeals court has sentenced the publisher and former managing editor of a leading Greek daily to 20 days imprisonment for making illegal use of tapes obtained through the phone-tapping of the New York Times bureau in Athens, a court spokesman said Thursday.

The three-member court's decision is the final one and upheld an earlier verdict of two-months imprisonment issued against George Bobalos, 63-year-old publisher of Athens daily Ethnos (Nation) and its former managing editor Alekos Filippopoulos, 60, in May 1985, said the spokesman.

Biotechnology vital: The developing world is in danger of losing out on the benefits of the science of biotechnology, which could transform life in the 21st century, an international scientist warned Thursday.

Robert Walgate of the World Health Organization said in London that it was vital for both north and south to co-operate to share the wealth of benefits the new technology could bring.

In his book entitled "Miracle or Menace? Biotechnology and The Third World," published Thursday, Walgate said there was a tendency among scientists in the developed world to concentrate their efforts on solving first world problems and ignoring those of the Third World.

French newsman dies: Francois Chatelet, foreign news editor for Agence France Presse, died of a heart attack while on a visit to Rabat, Morocco, the news agency said Thursday. He was 46.

Chatelet joined AFP in 1968 and worked in London, Washington, Paris, Manila and Peking. He was named one of the agency's top editors-in-chief for foreign news in May 1989.



Cocaine burns

Sandinista police burn on Wednesday what remained of 322 kilos of cocaine confiscated on June 3 when a Colombian plane was forced to make an emergency landing in Nicaraguan territory. The cocaine was valued at \$15 million. (Reuters wirephoto)

Medieval icons discovered: Sixty priceless medieval icons were discovered Thursday in a Macedonian orthodox church attic at Struga, the state Tanjug news agency said.

The icons were painted between the 15th and the 18th centuries, experts said.

The treasures were believed to have been hidden in the southern Yugoslav town in the 1850s.

Workers engaged in reconstructing the church made the discovery, the news agency said.

Family flees haunted house: A British town is offering an exorcism or a new home to a family spooked out of their "haunted" house.

Sue Jones, 33, said she and her three children fled a public housing project in Derby, central England, after more than 10 years because "life is hell."

"The house won't even let us do it up (repair it)... it has been falling off the living room walls in the middle of the night, wallpaper falls down and only the other day the lightbulb in the bathroom just shot out of its fitting and into the toilet, which is quite some way away."

The last straw, she said, was when the apparition of an old woman began appearing.

"The ghost is a figure, made up of light, of an absolutely ancient woman who just sits on the bed, knitting and smiling at you," Jones told reporters.



Hassan, Savimbi talks: King Hassan of Morocco has held talks with Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi about moves to end the country's 15-year civil war.

The official news agency MAP gave no details of Savimbi's meeting with the king on Thursday night.

Earlier this week Savimbi had talks in Rabat with Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, Portuguese secretary of state for foreign affairs, in an effort to promote a dialogue with the government in the former Portuguese colony. (Reuters)

Betrayed by a pigeon: Namibian police homed in on a diamond smuggler after his confused carrier pigeon flew a load of contraband gems back to their owners, police said on Thursday.

Pigeon in the southern diamond mining town of Oranjemund could hardly believe their luck when the pigeon, with 12,000 rand (\$4,600) worth of gems strapped to its back, dropped in on the mine from which they had been taken.

Mine officials gave the bird to police, who followed it home to the backyard of the town's postmaster, the spokesman said. (Reuters)

Campaign for change: Pro-democracy activists including a former government minister on Wednesday pledged to form an alliance to campaign against one-party rule.

Vernon Mwaanga, a former foreign minister, said the activists will hold a national conference Friday to discuss forming a broad-based organisation before a referendum on the future of Zambia's one-party system on Oct 17. (AP)

Zimbabwe ends emergency: Citing a "hand of friendship" from South Africa, Zimbabwe is following the example of President F.W. de Klerk and ending its state of emergency after 25 years.

Home Affairs Minister Moven Mahachi told parliament the emergency measures, first introduced by rebel white minority leader Ian Smith in 1965, would lapse at midnight on July 25.

His announcement on Wednesday made it clear that after months of suspicion, Zimbabwe is now prepared to take seriously promises by South Africa's reforming president to stop trying to undermine its black-ruled neighbour. (Reuters)

Detainee to be released: A black South African businessman jailed without trial for three years for alleged sabotage will be released within a week, the Zimbabwean government said Thursday.

Home Affairs Minister Moven Mahachi said that the leading of Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, 53, will be freed on or before July 25, the date Zimbabwe is set to lift a 25-year-old state of emergency.

"After the 25th we will not longer have any powers to hold him," Mahachi told reporters. (AP)

Convention shifts location: The International Bar Association announced Thursday it has cancelled plans to hold its annual convention in Nairobi, Kenya, because it cannot guarantee the delegates' safety.

The IBA was also concerned "about the state of human rights and the rule of law in Kenya" following the civil disturbances earlier this month, said Madeleine May, the association's executive director.

Tour operators smarting: Tour operators, smarting from a drop in business, have accused the United States of using tourism as a lever to "achieve certain political objectives" in Kenya.

The operators are angry because the State Department's warning to Americans on July 10 to postpone all nonessential travel to the East African nation following riots that left at least 28 people dead. (AP)

Moscow circus for SA: The world-renowned Moscow circus is to make a 12-week tour of South Africa with the blessing of the Soviet and South African governments, tour organizers said on Thursday.

The tour of six major cities from December until February would have been unthinkable before President F.W. de Klerk's apartheid reforms programme, started earlier this year, eased South Africa's isolation.



Library dedicated

Three Republican presidents who followed Richard Nixon into office praised him Thursday as a man who made the world a safer place.

Thousands turned out for the dedication of the former president's presidential library and to hear speeches by President George Bush and former presidents Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford.

Nixon was the nation's 37th president and only one to resign from office.

He has said he hopes the library will prompt people to look beyond the Watergate Scandal that ended his presidency.

"Nothing we have ever seen matches this

moment, to be welcomed home so warmly on this day," Nixon said on behalf of himself and his wife, Pat. (shown together above)

Bush paid tribute to Nixon as "a true architect of peace." Ford's and Reagan's speeches were laced with humour and found reminiscences.

"You, Dick Nixon, have the gratitude of men and women everywhere who cherish peace with liberty," said Ford.

"I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that the world is a better place — a safer place — because of Richard Nixon," Reagan said.

Bush said, "Richard Nixon was the quintessence of middle America," a leader who presided

over the nation during times "perhaps as tumultuous as any since Lincoln's."

"Richard Nixon helped change the course not only of America but of the entire world," said Bush. He said Nixon's path-breaking trip to China in 1972 "revolutionised the world," and recalled that it was Nixon who signed the first agreement with the Soviets to limit strategic nuclear arms.

Among those at the dedication were former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and other Nixon administration officials and Nixon's daughters, Julie Nixon Eisenhower and Tricia Nixon and her husbands. (Reuters wirephoto)

Asia

Still under house arrest: Opposition heroine Aung San Suu Kyi completed a year under house arrest on Friday but Burma's military government showed no signs of setting her free, diplomats said.

The army, which has ruled out a swift transfer of power despite an overwhelming opposition election victory in May, cancelled a weekly news conference and heightened security on roads leading to Aung San Suu Kyi's home.

Aung San Suu Kyi, 44, daughter of assassinated independence hero Aung San and for the last two years Burma's most revered dissident, was put under house arrest last July 20 for "endangering the state." (Reuters)

Burmese students march: About 150 youths marched Thursday and shouted demands that the military government free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who still is detained despite completing a one-year sentence.

Witnesses said the youths shouted anti-government slogans as they marched to the martyrs' mausoleum, holding the "fighting peacock" banner of Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

The party easily won an election May 27, but the government has given no indication it will hand over power or free Ms Suu Kyi soon. (AP)

3 executed for kidnapping: A defector from China and two other men were executed at dawn Friday for kidnapping the son of Taiwan's richest man, the Justice Ministry reported.

Relatives of the three men, including Ma Xiaogui, a sister of Ma Xiaobin, who defected to nationalist-ruled Taiwan in 1986, spent five hours before the execution on their knees outside the prison, the Justice Ministry said.

The ignored presidential guards who told them Lee was out of town. (AP)

Call to abolish flogging: The Hong Kong government Friday proposed legislation to abolish the punishment of flogging to criminals.

The proposal will be debated by the law-making legislative council in October and it is hoped that flogging will be abolished this year, the government said in a statement. (AP)

Religious harmony bill: Singapore Parliament has appointed a new select committee to consider the maintenance of religious harmony bill, it was reported here today.

The report quoted the Home Affairs and Law Minister Prof S. Jayakumar as saying in the current session that for a young and small nation like Singapore whose people belong to many different religions, religious harmony is not just a lofty ideal but one vital to the republic's stability and order. (Kuna)

Mongolia elections: Mongolia on Sunday holds its first free elections ever, with the ruling Communist Party expected to win though its grip on power might be loosened.

Half of this landlocked country's two million people are eligible to vote in the two-stage polling, with the final vote on July 29. (Reuters)

Pacific Islands object: Micronesian leaders objected on Friday to US plans to burn its European nerve-gas stockpile in the Pacific.

The Federated States of Micronesia, a former US territory in the Western Pacific still closely associated with Washington, said that burning America's chemical weapons stockpile on Johnston Island violated US and international law on disposing hazardous wastes.

"Transporting the European stockpile halfway around the world inescapably increases the risks," a government statement said. (Reuters)

Singapore bars reporters: Reporters from two major publications have been banned from an international conference, and circulation restrictions imposed on the Asian Wall Street Journal and the Far Eastern Economic Review will remain in effect, the Singaporean government said Friday.

Officials turned down applications from the Hong Kong-based review and the newspaper to allow their correspondents to cover the two-day Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference starting July 30.

Heat wave

Japanese sizzle

TOKYO, July 20, (AP): A heat wave scorching Japan is being blamed for a record number of ambulance calls and has raised fears of a water shortage in the heavily populated Tokyo metropolitan area. At least three deaths are blamed on the heat.

The mercury rose to 34.6 Celsius (94 Fahrenheit) in Tokyo on Thursday, the highest in the city this year, and to 39.5 Celsius (103 Fahrenheit) in nearby Osaka city, the fourth-highest temperature ever recorded in Japan, the central meteorological agency said.

Although temperatures eased somewhat Friday, the agency said the unusually hot weather is expected to last at least another week.

For the past week, the city's residents have been exchanging the uncommon greeting of *atsui sugoku* — it's too hot.

Elderly women who gather each morning at the Kabuki theatre in the central Ginza district have been vigorously waving hand-held paper fans before the doors open for the early performance of traditional drama.

On the nearby Giza shopping strip lined with upscale boutiques and Japan's major department stores, women stroll carrying cotton parasols to protect themselves from the merciless sun. *Sarayan*, the white-collar workers who flood downtown Tokyo, have shed their business suits in favour of short-sleeved shirts.

Kaifu support rises: Public support for the administration of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu registered 60 per cent, the second-highest approval rating for a postwar cabinet in Japan, according to a poll published Thursday.

Japan's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri Shimbun, said only former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka's cabinet had a higher rating — 60.5 per cent in October 1972, also in a Yomiuri Shimbun survey. (AP)

China-Singapore ties: China and Singapore will probably establish diplomatic relations within the next few months, according to Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

In an interview with the Japanese financial newspaper, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun Lee said that as long as China is not exporting revolution, Singapore welcomes economic co-operation with Beijing. (Kuna)

Thai premier rejects: Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonavan, defending himself against a no-confidence motion Thursday, denied he had given a refinery contract to an American oil company after \$24 million in bribes was paid.

The country will get only benefits from the refinery. We will not have to spend any money on it," Chatichai said.

Chatichai, speaking on the second day of a no-confidence debate, said there was no wrongdoing in the sudden award of the refinery contract to Caltex of the United States. (UPI)

Latin America

El Salvador claims: The Salvadoran government said the Soviet Union has rejected armed struggle as a means for achieving social and economic reforms in the impoverished, war-torn Central American nation.

Salvadoran officials met recently in Washington, DC, with the Soviet government's Central America expert, Yuri Pavlov, to discuss efforts to negotiate a solution to a decade-old civil war that has taken the lives of more than 72,000 people, mostly civilians. (UPI)

Treaty ignored: Argentina complained at the 40-nation disarmament conference Thursday that advanced nations have generally ignored a 1975 treaty calling for notification of objects launched into space.

It called for stricter wording and monitoring of implementation of the agreement.

The flow of information as a result of the convention has proved to be scanty, incomplete and tardy, Argentina representative Roberto Garcia Moritan said. (UPI)

Offensive threat looms: Threats of a major rebel offensive loomed over El Salvador before Friday's new round of peace talks in Costa Rica between guerrilla leaders and a government commission.

A half-dozen mid-level commanders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, of FMLN, have recently emerged from their hillside hideouts to hold clandestine peace conferences.

The message of the rebels in the war-torn country has been consistently they are ready to launch a massive offensive if the government fails to make concessions at the talks, to be held in Costa Rica. (UPI)

Panamans sue US: Sixty Panamanian businesses sued the US government Thursday for at least \$30 million, charging it used "excessive force and did not protect citizens during the Dec 20 invasion of Panama that ousted dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega."

The lawsuit, filed in US District Court in Manhattan, accused Washington of failing to provide adequate police security and said invading forces used "excessive force" during and after "Operation Just Cause." (UPI)

Nicaraguans celebrate: More than 20,000 Sandinistas packed Revolution Plaza in central Managua for an emotional celebration of the 11th anniversary of the revolution that brought an end to the Somoza dictatorship.

It was the first time the event had been celebrated without a Sandinista government in power, but the capital belonged to the Sandinistas Thursday afternoon. (UPI)

Pleads innocent: The son of a former military ally of Manuel Noriega was brought to the United States and pleaded innocent Wednesday to drug smuggling charges.

Amet Paredes, son of retired Gen. Ruben Dario Paredes, arrived Tuesday in Miami after surrendering to Drug Enforcement Administration officials in Panama, said his attorney, Joel Rosenthal.

Gen. Paredes was the commander of the Panamanian National Guard from 1982 to 1983, with Noriega as his intelligence chief. Noriega gradually gained power and in 1984 ousted Paredes.

In 1987, Gen. Paredes charged that Noriega was involved in corruption, drug smuggling and political assassination. According to the February 1988 indictment of Paredes, at that time was using Noriega's protection to smuggle drugs into the United States. (AP)

Fujimori names PM: President-elect Alberto Fujimori named US-educated agronomist and economist Alan Carlos Huariado Miller to be Peru's next prime minister and economy minister on Wednesday.

Huariado Miller, agriculture minister under former center-right president Fernando Belaunde Terry, will hold both posts when the new administration takes office on July 28, Fujimori told a news conference.

Fujimori said the new cabinet, to be announced on Thursday, would be made up of people from various parties of all political stripes to face Peru's economic depression and raging leftist guerrilla violence. (Reuters)

Carter for Haiti: Former US president Jimmy Carter will head an international delegation to Haiti next week to monitor preparations for November's general elections in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

The group, which will visit Haiti on July 25 and 26, will include experts from Canada, Jamaica and Barbados, a spokesman for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs said on Thursday.

"I look forward to exploring measures... to assure Haitians that they can vote in confidence and without fear for their safety," Carter said in a press release from the institute, which is sponsoring the trip. (Reuters)

Army officer arraigned: An army officer charged with a cover-up in the slaying of six Jesuit educators, their housekeeper and her burning of important documents in the case.

Hernandez told reporters after asking the judge defence lawyer is named.

"I trust in God, justice and my innocence, since I didn't order the burning of books," Hernandez said. (AP)

روزنامه العرب

Buddhist Ladakhis struggle for identity in Kashmir

LEH, India, July 20. (Reuters): A shortage of marriageable men could end the ancient custom of women taking several husbands in the Tibetan Buddhist enclave of Ladakh.

Polyandry and the fact that many Ladakhi men lead celibate lives in monasteries mean women are increasingly marrying Muslims in this rocky, arid land nestled in the soaring Himalayas of Indian-ruled Kashmir.

"We have lots and lots of girls who can't find men to marry and become easy prey for Muslims," said Rigzin Jora, General Secretary of the Ladakh Buddhist Association.

"We are trying to discourage polyandry to check conversions (to Islam)."

The Ladakh Buddhist Association has been agitating to break away from Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, and become a separate territory in the Indian Union.

"Conversion is the main cause of our agitation," Jora said.

Separatist Muslim militants have been battling against Indian rule in Kashmir for the past six months in a bloody revolt that has

killed more than 750 people.

If the militants succeed, Ladakh as a culture faces extinction, Jora said. Muslims constitute 12 per cent of the population and their numbers are increasing through marriage with Ladakhi girls who must then convert to Islam, he said.

"Because we are in a state dominated by Muslims we feel threatened with extinction, culturally and otherwise."

Remote and romantic Ladakh, which has been claimed by China, India and Pakistan, was virtually closed to outsiders from the end

of World War Two until 1974.

The daunting height of the Himalayas — the district capital of Leh is nearly 3,800 metres (12,000 feet) above sea level — contributed to the area's isolation.

India fought a border war with China in the area around Ladakh in 1962 and maintains a sizeable military force in the strategic territory, which lies on the western edge of the Tibetan plateau.

Polyandry was originally designed to keep family farms, carved out of the forbidding landscape, from being subdivided through

marriage, Jora said.

It also had the effect of curbing population growth and "making jealousy irrelevant," said Jora, a liberal arts graduate from the University of Delhi.

"There's no longer any economic compulsion for that. People can join the army, open up shops, join a profession."

Ladakhis fear that their ancient monasteries are declining and the tourists who come to trek in some of the world's highest mountains are disrupting ancient traditions, said Sonam Dawa, acting director of the Ladakh

Ecology Development Group which is trying to maintain the culture by preserving the old ways.

"Tourists brought in money. People started selling their carpets, thangka (Buddhist religious paintings) and religious artefacts to buy motorcycles, videos and jeans," Dawa said.

"Modernism has its good points. But in a traditional society, people generally pick up the undesirable things," he said. "If everybody acts, talks and dresses like Westerners may be tourists wouldn't even come."

We will come out stronger: Singh

No compromise on Kashmir

NEW DELHI, July 20. (Agencies): Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said today his government had emerged stronger after last week's power struggle with his deputy and would complete its five-year term.

"We have drawn our lessons and will come out stronger," Singh said at a three-hour news conference, only his second since he took office last December.

"Democracy is a self-healing political process. That is our strength," Singh won a power struggle last week with his ambitious deputy, 75-

year-old peasant leader Devi Lal, which had paralysed the government for three days.

Singh offered and later withdrew his resignation after Devi Lal reinstated his eldest son, Om Prakash Chautala, as head of the Haryana state government in defiance of party leaders.

Thirteen other ministers in his 38-member cabinet had quit over the affair, but Singh refused to accept their resignations.

The crisis was defused when Chautala resigned. He was first forced to quit as chief minister in May after being blamed for instigating by-

Emergency extended

Sri Lanka buying 'ME' arms

COLOMBO, July 20. (Agencies): Sri Lanka's parliament on Thursday extended a state of emergency after Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said

special powers were needed to "hammer the daylight" out of Tamil separatist guerrillas.

"We are going to crush them but we need the emergency and your support to allow its extension," Wijeratne told a late-night debate.

More than 1,400 people have been killed in fighting in the northeast since June after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam started attacking army camps and police posts.

The attacks took many by surprise since the Tigers, the most powerful rebel group fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils, were holding peace talks with the government.

Wijeratne said troops had made incursions into rebel territory in the east and were pursuing them into the jungles. "We are taking them head-on," he said.

The thrust was now in the north, he said but added: "I can't give the strategy."

"You will soon see our valiant forces hammering the daylight out of those criminals," said Wijeratne, whose pugnacious words make newspaper headlines daily.

However, residents in the east, which the government said had been cleared of rebels, say Tiger guerrillas were still prowling in towns and villages.

"As soon as it is dark, the army is absent and the rebels move freely with arms," one villager said.

The state of emergency, imposed in May, 1989, to combat

leftwing militants of the majority Sinhalese community who were trying to topple the government, gives the security forces extra powers and must be extended by parliament every month.

On Thursday, the extension was approved by 117 votes to one against.

The main opposition, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, said it was backing the military action but opted to abstain from voting.

Wijeratne, who is also minister in charge of plantation industries, said troops had taken control of most parts of Mannar on the northwest coast, where the Tigers bombarded army camps with mortars and rocketfire.

"We have offered Mannar

Island to the International Committee of the Red Cross to keep refugees there," he said.

At least 25,000 Tamils have fled in boats to the south India, divided from north Sri Lanka by a 32-km (20 mile) stretch of water, to escape the fighting.

The minister claimed the Tigers were forcing residents to flee in order to get India's sympathy.

"India lost 1,500 soldiers ... in a war with the Tigers. They won't be foolish to send troops again," Wijeratne said.

New Delhi sent 50,000 men between July, 1987, and March, 1990, to end the separatist revolt but the Tigers were not defeated.

Wijeratne denied Tiger charges of army attacks on civilians but said: "We are impressing upon soldiers that they should win the hearts and minds of the people. Things are under control."

But visitors to the rebel-stronghold of Jaffna in the north reported large-scale destruction of buildings and property in bombing raids by air force planes. Civilian casualties were also high, they said.

The military office, monitoring the offensive, said on Friday that two rebels were killed in overnight searches at Tirukovil in the east.

It reported deaths of 49 rebels and two soldiers in the 24 hours to Thursday afternoon. The report could not be independently checked.

The Sri Lankan government will purchase large quantities of arms, ammunition and vehicles to fight the war with the Tigers, security sources said.

Most of the weapons and vehicles will be purchased on a government to government basis leaving no room for middlemen to make the 'fast buck' on 'bloody money', a security official said.

Former Air Force commander and presently State Secretary for Defence, Walter Fernando, has returned after negotiations with several Middle-Eastern countries for the purchase of war weaponry. Iraq, it is understood, has agreed to sell weaponry while India has agreed to sell jeeps of the type used by the Indian army.

According to security sources Middle-Eastern countries, such as Iraq and Iran, have offered to help the Sri Lankan government in its war against the LTTE terrorists.

Talks on Kashmir end in stalemate

ISLAMABAD, July 20. (AP): Two days of confidence-building talks between India and Pakistan ended yesterday with little to show but an agreement to meet again in two weeks.

Senior Pakistani and Indian diplomats were locked away for most of Thursday in an attempt to smooth relations between the subcontinent's powerbrokers, who have three times gone to war.

At the end of the second day a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the two sides made little headway during eight hours of talks except to agree to meet again in New Delhi on Aug 9.

India's Foreign Secretary, Muckund Dube, and Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Tanvir Ahmed Khan, spent the first day of talks gingerly closing in on the key issue — a 7-month-old bloody uprising in India's troubled state of Jammu-Kashmir.

Dube is the highest-ranking Indian official to visit Pakistan since former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi met Pakistan's populist leader Benazir Bhutto in early 1989.

"We can't see that they (India) are ready to come to grips with the political issues of Kashmir," the Pakistani spokesman told reporters.

A spokesman for the Indian high commission in Islamabad also was not conciliatory. "Our stand is the same — that Kashmir is an integral part of India," he said, speaking on condition that he not be named.

"We have shown our concern about the interference we perceive from the other side of the border," he said.

India regularly charges Pakistan with arming and training Muslim militants, a charge Pakistan routinely refutes.

Pakistan disputes India's claim to Kashmir and has been lobbying for a United Nations sponsored plebiscite offering Kashmir's choice between union with India or Pakistan. India opposes the plebiscite.

At least 716 people have been killed in Kashmir since last January, when Indian troops launched a military crackdown on Muslim militants lobbying for union with Islamic Pakistan.

Since then, the separatists have begun demanding that Kashmir become an independent nation.

Equilibrium of personalities should be allowed to crystallise," the 59-year-old Singh said.

"Do not have fears (a new power struggle) will erupt again," he said replying to repeated questions about the episode.

Singh's minority government only survives in power with the parliamentary support of two ideologically opposed groups — the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party and communists.

Before his National Front government came to power there was no real alternative to Congress which had ruled India for all but two years since independence in 1947, Singh said.

One of the main achievements of his government so far had been to "psychologically liberate the people from bonded democracy," he said.

"We have been tested on our stability almost continuously these past seven months. It's a stability based not on numbers but on our credibility, the support of the people and the issue-based support of (other) parties."

The prime minister also said Jammu and Kashmir state, convulsed by Muslim insurgency, was not ready for a popularly elected government.

The state has been ruled by a Delhi-appointed governor for the past seven months and is now under direct rule from Delhi.

He said the government was first trying to contact various groups "to build an atmosphere for such a political process."

"Anyone who says 'I'm for India, I'm for the constitution and I'm not for violence,' we will talk to," Singh said.

Singh ruled out an early return to elected local government in Kashmir.

"There can be no compromise on anything on separation," Singh said, speaking about Kashmir and the equally troubled state of Punjab.

Despite recent criticism in the US Congress of human rights violations in suppressing the Kashmiri revolt, Singh said the United States was showing greater understanding of India's position toward its troubled northern province.

'Instruments of terror' Indian forces accused

NEW DELHI, July 20. (UPI): Security forces trying to crush a separatist uprising in the northern Kashmir region are being used by the government as "instruments of terror" against the people, a human rights group said yesterday.

The remarks were contained in an 80-page report released by the Committee for Initiative on Kashmir, which based its conclusions on an eight-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir state last month.

"The security forces are being used by the state — this includes the centre (New Delhi) and the government of Jammu and Kashmir — as instruments of terror as a part of deliberate policy to terrorise the Kashmiri people into submission," said the report.

"It began with a crackdown on the militants and is fast becoming a policy of brutal suppression of the entire Kashmiri people," the report said.

The government said it had not received a copy of the report and declined comment, a spokesman said.

"Security forces would like to avoid violence in Kashmir," the spokesman said. "They are functioning with a great amount of restraint."

The report came as New Delhi imposed president's rule yesterday throughout the Kashmir valley, home to most of the region's 4 million Muslims, virtually all of them supporting an escalating separatist movement.

Under president's rule, Governor Girish Saxena will continue to govern with executive powers but the parliament in New Delhi will have legislative authority over the region.

The development appeared to make little difference to militants in the area, who late Wednesday killed four soldiers in separate clashes in the border towns of Muzaffargarh and Kup-

wara.

In Jammu, the state's winter capital 185 miles (300 km) south of Srinagar, militants also detonated powerful bombs that heavily damaged the offices of the divisional commissioner and the district magistrate, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

Twelve people were wounded in the explosions, the Press Trust said.

The explosions prompted authorities to sound a "red alert" and to deploy hundreds of state police throughout the city.

Shiv Sena, a Hindu political party, called for a total strike to protest the bombings. Party activists took to the streets of Jammu, chanting "kill the terrorists" and "down with anti-national terrorists."

The separatist movement has been under way for 2-1/2 years but erupted into a popular uprising against Indian rule in mid-January after security forces fired on demonstrators, killing at least 35 people.

Since then, more than 600 people have been killed in near-daily shootings, bombings and assassinations. Tens of thousands of security forces sent to the troubled, mountain-ringed valley have been unable to crush the uprising.

Security forces have employed a number of tactics to counter the insurgency, including curfews, house-to-house searches and massive arrests of suspected militants.

But the moves have sparked widespread resentment among Kashmiris, who have accused security forces of numerous violations of human rights.

"The people of the valley are now living under virtual military rule," the human rights group said in the report.

"There seems to be a deliberate attempt to make women the primary target of attack by the security forces."

16 killed in Kashmir separatist violence

SRINAGAR, India, July 20. (Reuters): Bombings and shootings killed 16 people and injured 30 in India's Jammu and Kashmir state during the second day of inconclusive talks between India and Pakistan intended to cool tensions here, Kashmiri police said.

Guamens believed to be Muslim militants seeking separation from India sprayed automatic weapons fire from a car into a crowd in a market area in Jammu city, winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, killing five people and injuring 12.

Suspected Muslim militants also exploded two bombs in Jammu, injuring 13 people, two of them policemen, on Thursday.

A spokesman for the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front claimed responsibility.

Indian intelligence officials in Jammu said Muslim radicals appeared to be expanding their campaign into a Hindu-dominated Jammu district.

A curfew was imposed on Jammu for the first time this year and the army was put on alert in the district.

Eleven people were killed and five injured on Thursday elsewhere in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, Kashmiri police said.

The dead included four suspected militants, who were killed by security forces near the ceasefire line that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, and four paramilitary troops killed in other clashes with militants in the Kashmir valley.

More than 900 people have been killed since January when secessionists stepped up their campaign for Indian Kashmir's independence or its merger with neighbouring Pakistan.

Kashmiri militants have said they will intensify attacks on Indian security forces in the weeks leading up to India's Independence Day on August 15.

Both the militants and Indian officials have said thousands of young Kashmiris were poised to cross the ceasefire line with sophisticated weapons from Pakistan-held Kashmir to launch a jihad or "holy war" against India.

India says they are being armed and trained by Pakistan, a charge which Islamabad denies.

At the end of talks on Thursday, Indian and Pakistani negotiators remained in broad disagreement over Kashmir and army deployments on their borders, but said they would meet again next month in New Delhi.

Border guards intercepted a two-pronged infiltration into Kashmir from Pakistan and killed 34 Muslim secessionists early Wednesday, Indian officials said Thursday.

It was the biggest gun battle since the insurgency in Kashmir resumed early this year, the security officials said, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said the Muslims, caught crossing from Pakistan, had planned to upstage India-Pakistan talks on the disputed zone.

In the Kashmir valley, normal activity came to a halt Thursday in response to a strike called by the militant Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front to protest the Islamabad talks.

A curfew was clamped on the winter capital of northern Jammu and Kashmir state Friday, fearing Muslim-Hindu communal violence in the wake of a militant attack.

Two die in Bangladesh labour clash

DHAKA, July 20. (UPI): Two people were killed Wednesday in separate incidents of labour unrest, including a labour leader shot during an armed clash between rival groups of workers in Narayanganj, police said.

Police and witnesses said pro-government and anti-government groups of workers at the Adamjee Jute Mills in Narayanganj clashed for about three hours early Wednesday in a dispute over the leadership of their collective bargaining representative.

A labour leader was killed and several other workers suffered bullet wounds during the clash in Narayanganj, just south of Dhaka, a police said.

In another Labour-related incident in Chittagong, 190 miles (300 km) south of Dhaka, a truck driver was killed Wednesday when hit by a bullet during a confrontation between transport workers and law enforcement officers, authorities said.

Several other people were injured and admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital, officials said.

Rains flood Pak villages

ISLAMABAD, July 20. (Kuna): A heavy rain storm killed at least 29 people and injured scores of others as it lashed two villages in Pakistan's northern district of Mansehra on Thursday evening, according to unofficial reports.

The extraordinary heavy downpour flattened 25 mud houses in two villages of Batgram subdistrict of Mansehra and flooded streams.

Most people were feared drowned in the flooded streams as they came out to the rescue of those who were buried under the debris of their houses. The villages were identified as Altit and Liary.

Pakistan launches Defence plan

ISLAMABAD, July 20. (Reuters): Pakistan yesterday launched its biggest defence production complex, that will make battle tanks, field guns and armoured personnel carriers.

Army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg laid the foundation stone of the Rs25 billion (\$1.15 billion) project at Taxila, 30 km (20 miles) west of Islamabad, the official APP news agency said.

It quoted Beg as saying in a speech that the first prototype tank would be ready next June. "After extensive trials, series production would start, thus giving Pakistan the first tank of its own."

The factory will produce up to 200 tanks a year, APP said.

Last March, Pakistan rolled out its first locally-assembled battle tank from a Chinese-aided factory at Taxila.

Beg said the new complex, aided by the United States and China, would form the backbone of the Pakistani Army's heavy defence equipment.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary of Defence Production Lieutenant-General Talat Masood said that the tank factory was the most expensive component of the heavy rebuild complex constructed with the Chinese aid.

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KOTC denies new tankers purchase plan

Chairman rebuts reports

By Hmoud Ghailis

THE board chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company, Abdul Fattah Al Bader said in a press statement to Seyassah that the company has no intention to purchase any new oil tankers presently, or sell

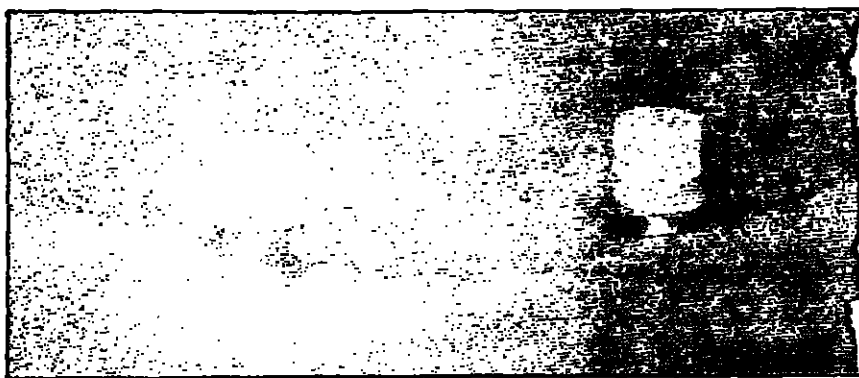
old tankers in its possession. The official was specifically rebutting reports carried by the Gray Mackenzie Oil Freight Company magazine.

The French news agency said in a press release in Manama that the magazine had

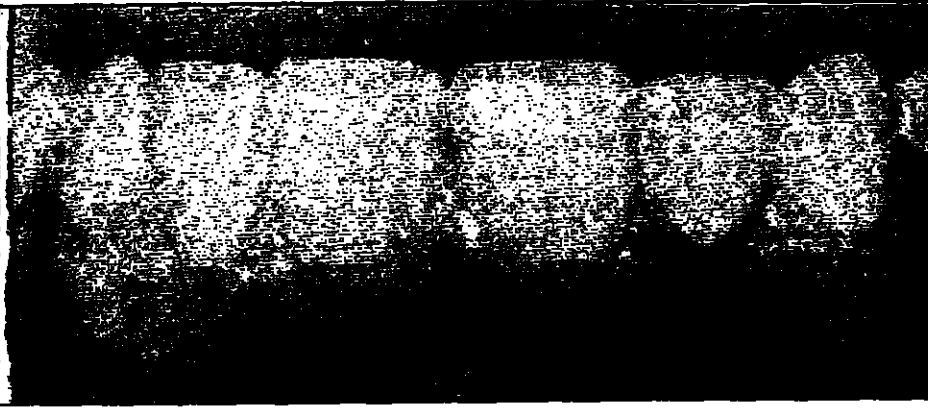
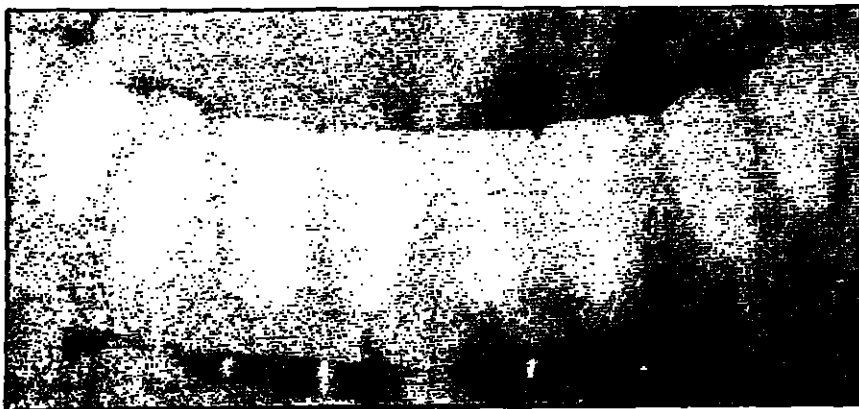
reported that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were planning to purchase 20 oil tankers in two batches. One for the freight of petrochemicals and that the second batch of oil tankers would replace the old fleet.

According to the reports carried by the

said magazine, the first batch of oil tankers includes nine 250-tonne capacity ships manufactured in Norway at the cost of Saudi Riyals 800 million, while the second batch of ships will involve 11 oil tankers for Kuwait which will replace the old tankers.



Steps in the implantation of teeth. Pegs are inserted under topical anaesthetic.



A whole set implanted to look like normal teeth. The operation does not take more than two hours.

No teeth? Have a set implanted

Technology now available in Kuwait

UNDER the effect of topical anaesthetics and in not more than two hours, people in Kuwait with teeth problems or no teeth at all can now have new teeth implanted and walk out with a strong set of bright teeth.

A specialised orthodontist told a local daily that the old teeth implant technology was not scientific enough and consequently it was short-lived because it caused gingivitis.

Dr. Mufeed Al Sawaf said that the new teeth implant technology is more reliable since it is the result of scientific experiments

on animals and clinical experiments on humans over a period of twenty years.

He pointed out that the new implant breakthrough has won the recognition of medical and scientific organisations which led to further confidence in the reliability of the technology involved.

He said that the success of the new technology is 90 per cent and the reasons include the actual technological method used and the use of Tritanium which has proven to be highly reliable in osteoplastic surgeries over the

past 50 years.

He said that the teeth implant technology depends on the natural function of the teeth and this helps distribute pressure on the bone better than the old technology.

He emphasised that the new technology provides highly sterilised teeth through treatment with ultra violet rays that helps the teeth structure to melt into the bone itself.

This technology, he added, uses advanced osteoplastic methods which involve freezing and minute drilling using sharp

blades in a carefully sterilised environment.

He attached great importance to the regular cleaning of the implanted teeth to ensure healthy and excellent performance. The success of the surgery is attributed to a number of factors, such as the use of topical anaesthetics control of bleeding, high sterilisation and sophisticated expertise, particularly in the utilisation of appropriate metal, diagnostic X-ray and advanced surgical technologies.

Ideal candidates for the new technology, he said are only peo-

ple who are habitually committed to cleaning their teeth, and those whose bone nature is appropriate for the operation.

He said the types of implant include the re-planting of a tooth knocked out in an accident, or the implanting of artificial teeth, based on the spiral or stake methods. These types receive great attention and development by international medical institutes.

He said that the new technology is not recommended for pregnant women or patients with psychiatric disorders or oral problems.

Iraqi allegations distortion of facts

(Continued from Page 1)

Chadli Klibi

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi flew to Kuwait today to join other Arab efforts to settle the border and oil crisis Iraq suddenly provoked with Kuwait.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt added their voices to call for moderation in the dispute between the oil-rich neighbours, once allies in the eight-year Gulf war.

Klibi was to discuss with Kuwait's leadership its call for an Arab committee to demarcate the tiny state's 100-mile (160-km) border with Iraq before moving to Baghdad.

Tomorrow morning, Klibi will have an audience with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Klibi's mission was preceded by intensive behind the scenes contacts by Arab leaders, particularly King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, to cool down the outburst of charge and counter-charge between Iraq and Kuwait over the past three days.

Gulf-based diplomatic sources said that the Saudi monarch, using the strong personal link he forged with Iraqi president during the Gulf war years, has been in frequent contact with Baghdad since the crisis erupted.

Sheikh Zayed

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, also said United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, in Morocco on a private visit, said he was ready to contribute the utmost toward solving financial aspects of the problem.

Despite the apparent cooling down, officials in Baghdad reported that thousands of Kuwaitis visiting Iraq were heading home while Iraqi dailies continued to accuse Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

One informed Kuwaiti source, referring to the relaxation of tension, said the crisis was "summer cloud."

He spoke after the return of Sheikh Sabah from a two-day shuttle to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Oman, the five countries with whom Kuwait is bound with a collective security pact. Other Kuwaiti envoys had fanned out through the capitals of the 21-member Arab League to muster support against the Iraqi threats.

Mubarak called on the two states to settle their differences by brotherly, constructive dialogue.

In a statement published by Egypt's Middle East News Agency, Mubarak, who has maintained close ties to Saddam, "appealed to all Arab brothers to give top priority to the consolidation of Arab solidarity."

Mubarak yesterday made a telephone contact with HH the Amir. The telephone conversation touched on "the current developments in the region in a bid to maintain the unity of the Arab rank at this critical stage."

UAE memo

The UAE today rejected Iraqi allegations and accusations over its oil policy describing them as baseless. In a memorandum submitted to the Arab League secretary, United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Al Nuaimi said "defending world oil market is a collective responsibility of members and non-members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries."

The memo noted that the stances of the United Arab Emirates within the framework of the organisation "were known and honourable" and UAE, in reducing its production to a level lower than its quota, has proved again her readiness on oil market stability and unity of Opec states.

The memo voiced UAE commitment to support sisterly Arab states "starting from firm principles and deep belief in the concept of pan-Arabism" adding such support is known to all.

The UAE affirmed that fanning crises and raising accusations over Arab states would only bear negatively on the Arab march and the unity of joint Arab action "which will be only to the benefit of enemies of the Arab nation."

The memo called for resolving

Arab differences, if any, in a brotherly spirit, wisdom and mutual respect.

Al Nuaimi asked the Arab League's secretary general to circulate the memo among member states.

Messages

Deputy commander of the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed yesterday received a message from His Highness the Amir of Kuwait addressed to UAE President Sheikh Zayed.

The message, dealing with Kuwait's point of view regarding the Iraqi complaint against it, was delivered by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah yesterday.

Libya said today it had called on the Arab League to form a fact finding mission to tackle the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Jamahiriya news agency (Jana) reported, but gave no further details. Libyan leader Muammar Khadafi received a message from HH the Amir Wednesday night on Kuwait's position from the complaint presented by Iraq to the Arab League.

The message was conveyed by the Amir's special envoy, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Al Othman during a meeting with the Libyan leader.

Al Othman's visit is within the framework of a tour that will take him also to Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania to deliver messages from HH the Amir to the leaders of these countries.

No GCC summit

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Nasser Muhammad Al Ahmad today ruled out convocation of an emergency summit of leaders of the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states.

It is still premature to hold such a summit in light of the recent Iraqi complaint against Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Nasser said in remarks in response to a question by a local daily.

He added Amir envoys are still touring Arab states to deliver messages from His Highness the Amir explaining the Kuwaiti point of view over the current dispute.

Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad returned home last night concluding a short tour of the Gulf Co-operation Council states on a similar mission.

Anxiety

West Germany today expressed profound anxiety over the recent dispute between Iraq and Kuwait, which was engaged by reports submitted to the Arab League by Iraq.

A spokesman of the Federal Foreign Ministry said the issue was discussed today and voiced his government's appeal to the concerned parties to continue showing readiness for negotiations and dialogue.

Britain said that it was hoping "that the disagreement between Kuwait and Iraq over these important issues will be settled by discussions and peaceful means."

A Foreign Office spokesman said in response to a question by Kuna, "naturally we will be deeply concerned by any threat or use of force."

The spokesman went on to say "Britain was following very closely the situation."

Optimism

Member of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation and chairman of the political committee Brigadier Othman Ahmed Hassan expressed optimism that Iraq and Kuwait would soon settle the existing disputes between them logically and wisely under the umbrella of Arab fraternity.

The comments were expressed during a press conference given by the visiting Sudanese official at the end of his four-day visit to Kuwait.

Kuwaiti ambassador at UN Mohammad A. Abulhasan yesterday delivered a message from Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, a UN spokesman said.

The meeting with the UN chief executive was at the request of the Kuwaiti envoy, but the UN spokesman would not disclose the content of the message.

Kuwait's Amir envoy, Dhan Abdullah Al Othman, today left Rabat for Mauritania in part of his tour in which he is relaying messages to Arab leaders on the sudden discord between Kuwait and Iraq.

The Kuwaiti envoy will deliver a message on the topic from His Highness the Amir, to Mauritania's President Mawia Ould Sidi Ahmed A. Taya.

Kuwait's State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Abdullah Abdel Rahman Al Awadi arrived in Sanaa today carrying a message from the Amir to President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the recent Iraqi accusation.

President Saleh had made a phone call to the Amir in the wake of the dispute.

Media reacts

LOCAL dailies today once more affirmed Kuwait's firm stance on key Arab issues and hoped that stability would be restored to the Arab Gulf region, which was ravaged by an eight-year war between Iraq and Iran.

Commenting on the memo sent by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad to Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi, daily Al Watan newspaper said in its front-page editorial, that the memo has set the record straight as far as relations with Iraq are concerned.

The paper also related to the contents of the Kuwaiti response to the Iraqi complaint, in which it called for the formation of an Arab arbitration panel on the demarcation of borders between the two countries, expressed readiness to examine the Baghdad proposal on establishing a fund for Arab aid.

Al Rai Al Aam newspaper, meanwhile, hailed the government's suggestion that an Arab arbitration panel be set up to tackle border demarcation between Kuwait and Iraq and said the proposal in itself was a testimony to Kuwait's strict observance of its national commitments.

The paper, for its part, proposed that the Kuwaiti suggestion be the nucleus for the formation of an Arab court of justice that would resolve such problems "among brethren."

Defending the country against the Iraqi charges the paper said in an editorial "it would be hard to count what Kuwait has offered to its sisters (Arab countries) in addition to the aid it intended to Third World countries through international organisations in the past quarter of a century."

In its part, daily Al Asba affirmed that the Kuwaiti stance on Arab issues is a "sacred matter" which cannot be abused or threatened.

In its editorial, Al Anba noted that the border issue is settled as far as Kuwait is concerned and said that the issue can be referred to an Arab arbitration panel, as announced by Kuwait yesterday.

Daily Al Seyassah said that Kuwait has always moved swiftly and silently to the help of brothers in need and did not ask for anything in return.

The daily noted that Kuwait has not reached where it is now easily, as the forefathers went to the horizons to make their living.

"On that day, in the glorious past, nobody wrote that during our pursuit of means of living, we aggressed on anyone, nor we snatched a bit from anyone's hand," the daily indicated.

The paper said that despite repeated pressures and threats, Kuwait did not budge an inch from its principles, which almost cost it the life of its Amir.

An Egyptian daily on Thursday warned of the escalation in the current dispute between Iraq on one hand and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates on the other "which will only benefit the enemies of the Arab nation."

The semi-official daily, Al Ahram, in its editorial, called for containing the problem as soon as possible, because it endangers joint Arab work and other threats facing the Arab nation at present.

Tunisia's independent newspapers said on Friday the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait was an unwelcome distraction from confrontation with Israel.

Travellers bringing back diseases, says official

By Nashat Al Agha

THE director of Al Farwaniya Health Area Dr Sulaiman Al Ali has confirmed the importance of health awareness to avert several diseases particularly during the summer season.

In an interview with a local daily, the official has described Kuwait in the summer season as a camp for health services. He said that Kuwait in general is free of epidemic diseases. However, many people leave the country for their summer vacation and some stay in areas which are highly disease prone. Those who return infected cause health problems in Kuwait, he said.

Speaking of meningitis in Kuwait this summer, the official said that this disease is common every summer. Some cases discovered recently and were completely cured except one case. He clarified that the existence of one or two meningitis cases in the country does not mean that Kuwait has an epidemic of meningitis.

He added that the department in his health area had taken necessary actions to undertake vaccination campaigns.

Speaking of future services to be extended his area, Dr Ali said the health services in the area are currently subject to a comprehensive evaluation with special concern to be paid towards realising qualitative

and quantitative expansion.

The official said that the area is striving to link primary health care and hospital services and progress had been achieved in this connection particularly in the field of maternity gynaecology and diabetes. In this context, the official said that the area has completely set up dental, public health and pharmaceutical services.

The area is also paying special attention to the administrative organisation process and striving to set up the organisational structure for each health centre in the area.

Replying to a question, the official called for co-operation among the health areas on the issue of organ transplant. He commented every body should know that health service could not be integrated in the absence of co-operation between the Ministry of Health. Hence all the departments concerned should co-operate with the organs transplant centre in order to upgrade this performance. He added that Farwaniya health area is in daily touch with the centre to keep them informed of deaths occurring in the hospital.

Speaking of statistical data, the official said that the dental service centre in the area had received about 283,660 patients during 1989.

KFAS to support scientific programmes

By Abdullah Al Shemmar

THE secretary of the board of directors at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Sulaiman Abdullah Al Awadi said that KFAS will spare no effort in supporting scientific and cultural programmes and research which Kuwaiti youth wish to implement, in response to directive by HH the Amir, the chairman of the board at KFAS.

He said at a symposium, organised by the Permanent Kuwait National Committee on the occasion of the World Food Day at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, that the functions of KFAS include rendering support to all different scientific, social and cultural activities, whether material, morally or scientifically, in order to develop the skills and talents of the members of the Kuwaiti society.

He added that KFAS also provides major contribution to supervising, and organising symposia and lectures and conferences hosted by the government of Kuwait, referring to the great achievements so far made by KFAS.

Farwaniya educational area prepares for coming year

DIRECTOR of Farwaniya educational area, Ibrahim Abu Al Khail has said that school books and curricula will be distributed to students a day or two days before the beginning of the academic year. Students would be able to start the learning process from the first day of school, he added.

In an interview with a local daily, Abu Al Khail indicated that students parents were all informed of dates for receiving school books and curricula according to various educational stages. The dates were sent to parents attached to students school grade reports.

A special committee was formed to prepare for the coming academic year in order to follow up financial and manpower requirements at Farwaniya schools. The committee co-ordinates with the main committee at the ministry which is headed by the ministry undersecretary.

With respect to the area preparation to receive the coming academic year, Abu Al Khail said that preparations are underway to provide all requirements. He pointed out that these preparations include teachers transfers in addition to following up of air-conditioning at schools.

The area administration is currently studying examination results at all educational stages. The passing rate increased eighteen per cent for the scientific sections and 16 per cent for the arts section than the last academic year. He indicated that Farwaniya educational area won second place among other educational areas in the country.

He said that school budgets for the coming academic year were completed and distributed before the summer holiday. He expressed hopes that the area will not face any shortages in the teaching staff.

He said that excluding the kindergarten stage, there is a difficulty in providing the required number of teachers. He pointed out that this was due to shortages in the number of graduates specialising in kindergarten education for this year. Such shortages in the teaching staff at the Kindergarten stage is common to all educational areas, he added.

Regarding the implementation of the developed school administration system, he explained that the experiment will be applied in Farwaniya like other areas. Sabah Secondary School for boys and Ardhiya Intermediate School for girls will witness the implementation of the newly developed administrative system this coming year.

Farwaniya will witness the opening of two new kindergartens in the coming academic year.

Meanwhile, dean of students affairs and trainees at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Hisham Abdullah Al Mutawa has said that the deanery has finished reviewing and endorsing the results of the remaining applied education colleges, which include the College of Commercial Studies (boys and girls), and that of Technological Studies for boys.

He told a local daily that the total number of graduates from these colleges is 776 students, of whom 310 are boys and 466 girls, and that among whom 270 girls obtained B.A. in basic education. He said that the total number of graduates from all Pasat colleges in the second term 89/90, 924, which divide into the following colleges:

Basic Education	66	272
Commercial Studies	115	194
Health Science	11	39
Technological Studies	195	32
Total	387	537

Zakat House to streamline distribution of grants

THE acting director general of Zakat House, Abdulqader Al Ajeel, has said that the annual plan for the fiscal year 1990/1991 had been finalised and will be implemented by the different departments of the house.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) Ajeel said that the planning process at Zakat House is witnessing tangible development and progress from one year to another. These developments are in keeping with the state's five-year-plan and the directives of the Ministry of Planning and Civil Service Commission.

The house will pay special concern to streamlining new procedures related to the distribution of aid to the needy families, including setting up a new office to execute these functions, the official said.

The house will strive to secure free-of-charge seats for needy students at private schools in addition to developing activities of the Prisoners Families Fund and the revision of the lending regulations of the house. The house will also co-operate with the ministry health to support the Patients Aid Fund.

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that the house will sponsor meetings to be attended by representatives from charitable institutions in Kuwait in order to achieve co-ordination among its activities. He added that the house will seriously endeavour to supervise the other Zakat committees working in Kuwait particularly towards unifying the accounting system via a computer link. The house will publish a booklet delineating activities of the zakat committees in Kuwait, the official said.

He added that the house is planning to organise 57 training courses.

Man beheaded for rape

NICOSIA, July 20, (Reuters):

Saudi Arabia today beheaded in public a man who robbed and raped two women, Radio Riyadh reported.

It quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying Abdullah Jaber Al Odwani was caught last week when he attacked a third woman.



Czech envoy at Oapec

The secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapec), Abdul Aziz Al ambassador was accompanied by Miroslav Debnar, commercial counsellor at the embassy. Discussions covered oil and energy matters of international concern. Ambassador Strakovs expressed a desire for enhanced ties of economic co-operation between his country and the Arab states, and Oapec member countries in particular.

قزاق سفير في اوپك

Malaysian Sagas may be exported to Gulf

Sheikh Salem tours Proton plant

KUALA LUMPUR, July 20. (Kuna): Kuwait's Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah spent about an hour touring Malaysia's national car plant, Proton in Shah Alam, 35 km from here today.

He was accompanied by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia, Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa and the bank's assistant manager for international relations and

technical affairs office, Nabil Hamoud Al Saqqabi.

During the visit, Sheikh Salem was also briefed on the production of Proton Saga cars by senior officials of the plant.

The governor, who is on a four-day official visit to Malaysia, told Kuna later that he was impressed with the activities at the plant.

He said he also inquired whether it was possible Proton Sagas be exported to the West Asian market.

Production

"I was informed it is not yet possible because the plant has yet to produce left-hand drive Proton models," he added.

A Proton spokesman said efforts are now being made towards producing left-

hand drive cars suitable for West-Asian consumption.

It is hoped left-hand drive models will be produced for export within three years' time, he said.

To date, the Proton cars are exported to 11 countries amounting to nearly 20,000 units, or close to 10 per cent of the cars produced by the plant so far. The 200,000th Proton Saga rolled out of the

assembly plant in May this year.

The governor and his wife were entertained to dinner by the chairman of the Malaysian National Oil Corporation (Petronas), Azizan Zainul Abidin, last night.

They will be entertained by the Kuwaiti ambassador at his residence tonight.

From the courts

Man gets 10 years for attempted rape

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to ten years rigorous imprisonment for trying to rape a woman.

The court was told that the accused called on the house of the woman to see her husband. Finding the husband not in, the accused informed her that he had a letter and some cassettes from her parents living in a neighbouring country.

The woman invited him in and when she went into the kitchen to bring out some refreshments, he attacked her. However, the woman picked up a knife from her kitchen and stabbed the accused who managed to make good his escape.

He was subsequently apprehended and referred to investigation authorities.

Fined for causing inconvenience: The court fined a man KD 10 for consumption of alcohol and causing inconvenience on board a flight.

The court was told that the man boarded the flight at Cyprus airport and asked the stewardess to bring him a bottle of whiskey.

On arrival at Kuwait airport, the accused was found to be in an unconscious state and medical help had to be called on board the Cyprus Airways. The accused was transferred to the hospital where he regained his senses the next morning.

Two years, fine for smuggling: The Cassation Court upheld a sentence of a Higher Appeal Court that issued a verdict of two years rigorous imprisonment and KD 300 fine, in addition to a fine of KD 50 for smuggling hashish.

The court was told that the defendant arrived on a Kuwait Airways flight from Bombay and had in his possession 18 bags.

Finding the accused in a totally confused state, customs personnel subjected his bags to a thorough search. On finding no contraband, they asked him to sign his acceptance to a body search. He agreed, but in the process threw his cigarette case into one of the bags. This was retrieved and found to contain nine cigarettes containing hashish along with a packet of drugs.

Heroin trader sentenced: A man was sentenced to two years imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of KD 500 for trading in heroin.

The Criminal Court was told that undercover agents set up a deal to purchase a quantity of heroin from the accused and when he delivered the goods, gave him marked police currency on the basis of which he was arrested.

The accused said that he had obtained the contraband from an accomplice identified as Kher Al Deean. However, police investigations revealed that the second accused had left the country three years previously.

Gamblers get a month: The Court of Misdemeanours sentenced 22 men to one month's imprisonment each on being convicted of gambling.

Security forces raided a farm in the Fintas area and apprehended the accused red-handed. Three among those accused were sentenced for being operatives of the gambling den.

Liquor smuggler sentenced: The Criminal Court sentenced a man to four years in prison to be followed by deportation and ordered him to pay a fine of KD 200 for smuggling liquor.

The court was told that the accused identified as Lipton tried to bring in the contraband through a border check-post in his car, but was apprehended by security forces.

Maid, paramour convicted: The Criminal Court sentenced an Asian maid and her paramour to two years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation on being convicted of adultery.

The two accused were caught red-handed by the neighbour of the maid's employer who had been observing for some time the visits of the man to the residence of the maid.

Six acquitted of harassment: The Court of First Instance acquitted four men and two girls on charges of harassing a man and his wife.

The plaintiff complained to the Ministry of Communications that some unidentified persons were abusing his wife and himself several times a day via the phone and asked the ministry to monitor his phone.

The ministry traced these calls and notified the Ministry of Interior who in turn arrested the six defendants who were said to be speaking from different places.

The court in arriving at its decision of acquittal based its judgement that there was no material evidence of the charge as the Ministry of Communications did not have any record of these abuses.

Kuwaitis arrested for theft: CID men at Ahmadi Governorate arrested two Kuwaiti nationals Shareed M. and Abdullah A. on charge of theft. They were arrested during an attempt to steal a motorcycle. They confessed during investigations they also stole a number of pigeons from a house and another motorcycle. They were referred to investigation authorities.

Man obliged to make down payment: The Criminal Court obliged a man, legal representative of a local company, to pay KD 250 as a down payment to his hired lawyer.

The court heard that the defendant had hired the lawyer to defend him in a law case, however, he refused to pay him the down payment mentioned in the contract signed between them.

Oil show for S. Arabia

AFTER an absence of nearly five years, the largest energy event in the Arabian Gulf is back in Doha, the capital of the oil and petrochemical industry of the Middle East.

To be staged at the \$20 million brand new exhibition centre with all its modern facilities, the exhibition will be supported by a major international energy convention and several technical seminars.

Under the patronage of Hisham Nazer the oil minister of Saudi Arabia, world oil and energy industry leaders will assemble this November in Doha, to discuss and outline the new challenges and strategies for the oil industry in the 1990s.

Aramco, Sabic and Petromin

have already confirmed their commitment, as quote: This event in Doha is vital for the future of the oil and petrochemical industry of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East.

From the estimated \$60 billion new investment required by the Opec countries for upgrading their production facilities to meet the resurgence of market demand in the 90s, Saudi Arabia alone is committed to spend \$15 billion.

The Gulf Oil, Petrochemicals and Energy Exhibition will offer a first class, hands-on opportunity for equipment manufacturers and technology suppliers from around the world to participate in the massive programme of investment in replacement plant and installation of new facilities.

Heat wave scorches UAE

ABU DHABI, July 20. (Reuters): Hospitals have treated 35 people for sunstroke as the United Arab Emirates sweltered in the fiercest heat wave for five years.

Health officials urged people to stay out of the sun after the temperature soared to 48 degree Centigrade (118 Fahrenheit) yesterday.

Weathermen said the heatwave in the mainly-desert Gulf state, one of the hottest regions on Earth, would last another 24 hours. The temperature in July is normally about 40 degrees C (104 F.)

Police College registration

REGISTRATION for graduate cadres at the Police College will shortly be announced, the director general of the Police College, Brigadier Khaled Al Munaynes said.

Speaking to a local daily, the official said that the prospective candidates should have the Secondary School Certificate

with a minimum 60 per cent.

The successful graduates will be conferred with B.A. certificates which are equivalent to those of their counterparts in the university.

Essentially, the official said that all applicants should be Kuwaitis and are subject to the approval of the committee.

Action Line

MY maid insists on transferring to another employer when her one year contract expires later this year. I'm ready to release her but I would like to know the procedure for the transfer, especially whether she needs to leave the country or can she transfer locally. She has been in Kuwait since 1981.

My maid is presently working part-time with my approval for another family. I'm told that this is illegal. Could you clarify?

K.S.
DOMESTIC helpers, holding visa No. 20, do not come under the private sector labour laws. You only need to give her a release letter saying you allow her to transfer to another sponsor. The transfer can be done locally, if her new employer so desires, at the nearest immigration department. She need not leave the country. However, your presence may be required to complete the transfer of visa formalities.

A housemaid, or for that matter any expatriate, is not permitted to work for an employer other than his sponsor. Immigration rules do not permit domestic servants to work "part-time," even with the approval of the sponsor. As she is breaking the law, she can be deported if the authorities discover her working for another family. The employer won't be fined but he would have to bear the cost of repatriating her i.e. buy her an air ticket to her country of origin.

RECENTLY, I signed a promissory note in the presence of two witnesses. It's written in English. Is it valid?

(Name supplied)
YES. It is valid. To be admissible in a court of law, all documents must be translated into Arabic. This applies to promissory notes as well.

MY wife and I hold valid residence permits No. 18. She has gone to my country for our child's delivery. Can she return to Kuwait with the infant. Can the child enter Kuwait on a visit visa? Is there a minimum salary requirement for registering the child in my wife's passport in Kuwait?

I. Kumar
YOU can bring the infant on a visit visa to Kuwait; and within a week of arrival, you must get a residence permit for the child. To our knowledge, there is no salary requirement for registering a child's name in a mother's passport. If both parents are working in the private sector, a father can sponsor the child.

I'VE recently come to Kuwait and hold a driving licence from a neighbouring Gulf country. I also hold an international driving licence. Can I drive in Kuwait? Can a person resident in Kuwait drive on an international licence?

Haleema
A PERSON resident in Kuwait cannot drive on an international driving licence. A person visiting Kuwait, in principle, can drive on an international driving licence provided he is staying in the country for less than three months. If you are a resident, then you must try and obtain a driving licence in Kuwait.

MY son's passport expires at the end of next month; his residence is valid upto 1991. At the moment, he is in my country and is unable to return. Please let me know the immigration law (1) if he has a new passport without a residence visa, (2) an old passport with a residence visa? Does the six months overstay rule apply to housewives?

Amin
YOU can renew his passport in your country. If you get a new passport, you should attach the old and the new passports so that the validity of the visa can be checked at the airport by the immigration officer, who will grant him a visit visa on entry. Within a week of entering Kuwait, he has to approach the immigration office to transfer his residence permit from the old passport to the new one.

The six-month overstay rule applies to all expatriates, including housewives. Dependents — wives and children, who stay outside Kuwait for more than six months can re-enter on a visit visa and be re-sponsored by the husband, provided they are eligible under the salary regulations to obtain such visas.

CAN an expatriate buy property in Kuwait. If he can, what is the procedure?

An expatriate
AN expatriate is not entitled to buy property in Kuwait but he can rent premises on a long term lease; terms and conditions of leasing property are defined by a contract signed by the owner of the property and the person renting the apartment/villa.

I HOLD a dependent's visa and have recently found a good job which I would like to take up but I don't want to change my residence status? Can I work on a dependent's visa?

Leena
NO, you can't work on a dependent's visa. It is against the laws. If you are really keen to start work, you can ask your prospective employer to issue a work permit, and legalise your status before starting your job. It is not advisable to break rules of the host country.

If you have a problem, drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13823 Safat or send your questions to us on Fax No. 4847495.

Chinese minister visits Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA, July 20. (Reuters): Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Saudi Arabia today amid moves by the two countries to establish diplomatic relations.

Qian's visit, the first by a Chinese minister to the strictly Muslim kingdom, came 24 hours after Saudi Arabia told Taiwan that it was planning to switch diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing.

The Saudi Press Agency SPA said Qian was met at the airport by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. It gave no further details.

In Beijing, diplomatic sources close to negotiations between Saudi Arabia and China said Qian's visit was likely to end with an announcement that diplomatic ties would be established as early as September.

The apparent breakthrough in the long-running talks began last week with a visit to the Chinese capital by Saudi ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar Bin

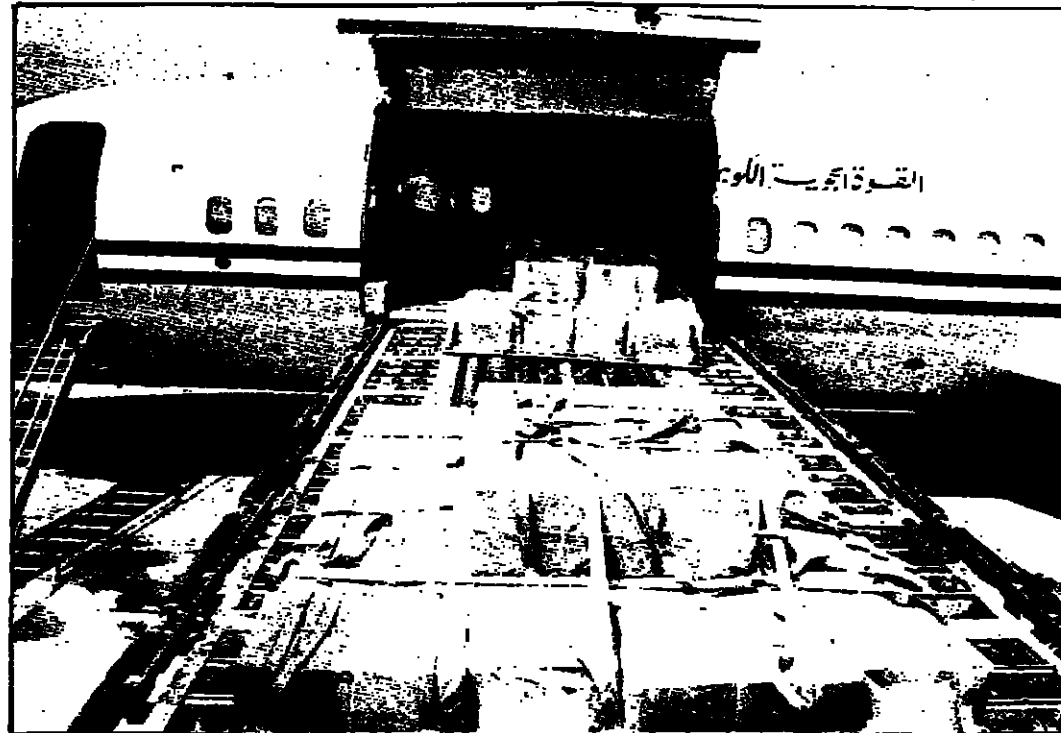
Sultan, the diplomats said. A Saudi Arabian envoy, Industry Minister Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Zamel, told the Taiwan Nationalist government yesterday that the kingdom had decided to set up official ties with China. Taiwan's deputy foreign minister said.

"The Saudi envoy has told us that ... it would be difficult for them to keep their current status of ties with us," Chen Chien-Jen said.

Riyadh is Taipei's last diplomatic ally in the Middle East and Taiwan's Foreign Ministry described the move as "seriously hurting."

The diplomats said Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter and an important regional power, wanted to establish ties with China because it recognised its political importance and saw that Beijing could play a useful role in Middle East forums.

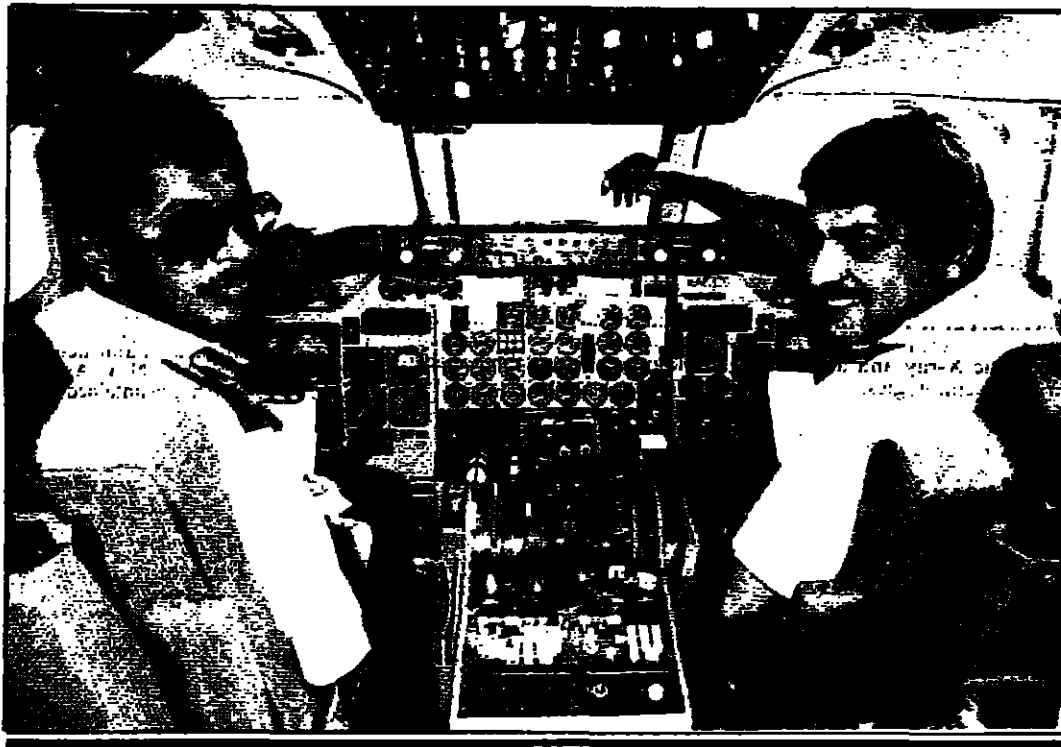
In 1988, China sold Saudi Arabia medium-range missiles.



Quake relief

Kuwait was among the first countries that responded to the humanitarian call to supply victims of the destructive earthquake in Iran last month with relief. Two days ago a Kuwaiti plane carried a consignment of relief materials and medicines to Iran.

Kuna's photographer accompanied the mission and took pictures of the plane's crew and the unloading of relief at Tehran airport.



Screwworm eradication

\$31 million pledged at IFAD-FAO confab

ROME, July 20. (Opecna): A one-day pledging conference ended here Tuesday with a \$31 million commitment to help eradicate the new world Screwworm in North Africa.

The conference, which was attended by representatives from 26 countries and 10 international organisations, was sponsored by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

In his opening speech, IFAD President Dr Idriss Jazairi underlined that the "pledging conference represents the culmination of our efforts to mobilise public opinion and funding for a most crucial initiative — a programme to prevent an impending disaster or epidemic proportions before it is too late to do anything but surrender to its onslaught."

In addition, the Libyan government has indicated that it will provide, \$25 million in cash and kind to support the programme. All contributions will then be deposited into a special FAO trust fund account set up for the screw worm campaign.

These funds will help to meet the cost of a 11.7 million dollar (in cash and kind) two-year eradication programme, which involves dropping millions of sterile screwworm flies over the infested areas while simultaneously carrying out surveillance, prevention and treatment of wounds, control of animal movement and quarantine.

Programme

IFAD/FAO sought firm pledges for the first year of operation and a commitment for the second year. The pledges made here Tuesday will enable the two UN organisations to launch the full-scale eradication programme immediately after the pilot programme, now being carried out in Libya, is completed.

Lucas Brader, FAO's director of the newly-created screwworm emergency centre for North Africa, said the new funds would enable the programme to move rapidly ahead with the eradication campaign.

"We must move quickly to prevent the spread of this dangerous pest from Libya through Africa and into the Near East, Southern Europe and eventually to Asia," he stressed, adding that "we have the technology to eradicate the screwworm."

The new world screwworm is a parasite of warm-blooded creatures. Eggs laid by the female fly hatch into maggots, which feed on the living flesh of livestock, wildlife, domestic animals and humans and can cause death if not treated.

Until recently, the screwworm was confined to the Americas where it was the most destructive of all insect pests attacking livestock.

If it spreads through North Africa, control and treatment measures alone, not considering losses, would cost an estimated \$250 million annually.

The \$2.5 million pilot project in Libya is being conducted by FAO in co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The 20-week programme, which was initiated by IFAD in 1989 is being funded by the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as IFAD.

Efforts to control the Screwworm infestation in Libya and to prevent its spread to other countries have been under way for some time.

IFAD, FAO and UNDP have helped organise training and information programmes for Libya and neighbouring countries. FAO alone allocated more than two million dollars from its technical co-operation programme funds.

The Libyan government spent about \$16 million last year to fight the infestation, sending some 100 inspection and treatment teams into the field.

In his concluding remarks Tuesday, Jazairi said that he was "most encouraged by the extraordinary sense of commitment demonstrated by the international community, which had led to the considerable success of this pledging conference."

He expressed optimism that the mechanism for wiping out the new world Screwworm from the old world had been established and future contributions would be made during the course of project implementation.

Obstacles

The eradication plan calls for unleashing tens of millions of sterilised screwworm flies in Libya. Matings then yield no offspring and the insect, which eats away at the flesh of its victims, will die out. The sterile fly release is expected to get under way in September, a FAO official said.

US sanctions against Libya, including a ban on American travel there, complicated planning to wipe out the fly. US technology is needed to carry out the programme, and supervision by American experts was considered essential to its success.

After delicate discussions, the US administration agreed to allow both the technology's use and personnel to go into Libya. FAO sources have said privately that the starting date for eradication could have been moved up if it weren't for the obstacles posed by the sanction.

US officials said they agreed to help in the eradication for humanitarian reasons and because an international organisation will carry it out.

Federal state best solution for Sudan, says Othman

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

A FEDERAL state might be the best solution for Sudan's rebellious movement in the south, said Brigadier Othman Ahmad Hassan, member of Sudan's Revolutionary Council for National Salvation who visited Kuwait last week.

In a press conference Thursday, he said that the revolution inherited severe problems most important of which is the movement in the south. "The movement is the cause of economic problems in the country because so much of public money is spent on it instead of on public services."

He said that this solution that was adopted by a national conference will hopefully solve the issues of distribution of resources, national identity and cultural differences in this country that has suffered from this movement since the mid '50s.

Hassan added that a committee is now preparing a detailed proposal on this promising solution.

"The Revolutionary Council is not here to take over power forever," said Hassan adding that it is a transitional period.

"In one year, the revolution has achieved a lot," he said. "It brought back safety and security, it organised the distribution of basic consumer goods in all regions and abolished the black market. The revolution also succeeded in reducing the deficit in the national budget and building four new universities."

Hassan announced that Sudan welcomes investors interested in establishing businesses there. "A copy of the new laws and regulations for foreign investment in Sudan is available at the embassy."

The Sudanese official stated that his visit to Kuwait aimed at explaining the current situation in Sudan to the Kuwaiti government. He met with HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

"They were all very understanding of the Sudanese problems and they asserted their support to Sudan and their continuous interest in developing the relations between the two countries."

He also said that he met with representatives of charity and relief agencies that offer humanitarian help to the peoples of his country.

Man gets 10 years Rf for murder of wife

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to ten-years rigorous imprisonment to be followed with deportation on charges of murdering his 18-year-old wife.

The court heard that the defendant confessed during investigations that he accidentally killed his wife only after six months of marriage.

He said that on the day of the incident, he had repeatedly tried to make love to his wife, but she adamantly refused. At around 4.00 am, he said he tried again and was repulsed. This infuriated him and he grabbed her by the throat, but not with the intention of killing her.

The medical examiners report said that death was not caused by suffocation, but as a result of shock that affected some nerves which stopped her heart from working for some time.

Additionally, the father of the deceased told the court that he had pardoned the accused.

The accused was arrested as he was trying to flee through the border in his car on a complaint filed by the mother of the victim who had gone to the bedroom to see to the welfare of her daughter.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A MAN can never be a true gentleman in manner until he is a true gentleman at heart — Charles Dickens, English novelist (1812-1870).

Mobile missiles outdated

Cold war end nullifies MX

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The original idea for the MX mobile missile was simple: Put nuclear warheads on a train and move them around to make it hard for enemies to knock them out.

During the cold war, the nearly \$20-billion project seemed to make sense. But now, with democratic reforms sweeping Eastern Europe and the Soviet-led Warsaw pact military alliance crumbling, critics say the MX weapons system is out of date.

"In my view, they are as obsolete as the horse cavalry," former undersecretary of defence Fred Ikle told Reuters. "There's sort of a fixation on some aspects of deterrence which made sense in the 1960s but doesn't make sense in the 1990s."

Ikle, who helped forge the strategy behind president Ronald Reagan's trillion-dollar military buildup in the 1980s, said there are cheaper, better ways to hold off a Soviet threat than the massive MX missiles, which each carry 10 nuclear warheads.

Some in Congress agree with Ikle. Last week, the Senate Armed Services Committee rejected President Bush's request for cash to put the 50 existing MX stationary missiles on wheels.

To move the MXs onto railway cars and run them for 15 years would cost an extra \$11.2 billion according to a Library of Congress report.

Warheads

Each of the MX's 10 warheads is 10 times the size of the bomb that flattened Hiroshima, Japan, in World War II. After launch, each warhead can be aimed at a specific target — in other words the existing 50 missiles could destroy 500 targets.

By putting MX missiles on special trains the United States could satisfy one important strategic goal, the Library of Congress said: "To deter attack, US forces must be able to survive an attack in sufficient numbers to retaliate with devastating force."

The Bush administration railway scheme is a descendant of similar plans aimed at protecting the missiles from attack.

In the late 1970s, president Jimmy Carter's team advocated deploying 200 MX missiles in what was called a "racetrack" system with each missile moving from silo to silo.

The Reagan administration was torn between wanting to deploy a mobile MX and not wanting to offend constituents in the US southwest who objected to nuclear weapons being moved across their land, said arms control expert Andy Goldberg.

Reagan cut the number of MXs by half and spent six years studying alternative methods of deployment — using aircraft, submarines, deep underground silos and a "dense pack" system of closely spaced missile shelters.

Kurdish rights stir up debate

ANKARA, July 18, (Reuters): A vigorous call for Turkey's 10 million Kurds to be given ethnic rights has thrown the political spotlight on an issue that challenges a tenet of the modern republic's founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

The call by the main opposition Social Democrat Party (SHP) is designed partly to reduce Kurdish separatist violence that has claimed nearly 2,500 lives since mid-1984.

"The SHP will allow the means for citizens who accept the Kurdish identity and call themselves Kurds to express this identity freely and as they wish in all walks of life," the party said in a report released this week.

Among other things it urged freedom for Kurds to use their own language.

The call has received a mixed reaction, ranging from a State Security Court inquiry, derision and accusations of opportunism by a party which last year expelled seven deputies for attending a Kurdish conference in Paris.

"The official language is Turkish. We must not stray outside this," President Turgut Ozal said.

Columist Altan Oymen, writing in the liberal daily Milliyet, said: "We hope others will follow in the SHP's steps and create a constructive atmosphere for debate on the issue."

Esat Kiratliglu, a senior official of the centre-right True Path Party, said the SHP's judgement was wrong. "There is no language

problem in the southeast," Turkey does not recognise its Kurds, who make up nearly one fifth of the population, as an ethnic minority.

They are among an estimated 17 million Kurds who live in border areas of Iran, Iraq, the Soviet Union and Syria and speak a number of Iranian languages closely related to Persian.

At the heart of the SHP's proposal on language is a law whose contents have been accepted since shortly after the Turkish republic was founded in 1923.

"Including in any activity involving the utilisation and propagation of languages other than Turkish as a mother tongue... is prohibited," the law states.

In that major attack on the law, SHP said such an arrangement was "primitive."

"This legal mechanism, which denies the realities of our country and of our age, has ignored the fact that the peoples of the world as well as our own people speak in their native languages as well as the official language."

Ataturk, in an effort to instil a sense of national identity lacking in the cosmopolitan Ottoman Empire, refused minority rights to Kurds and other ethnic groups.

In the southeast, where most of Turkey's Kurds live, Kurdish is widely heard but nobody apparently knows if and when they will be prosecuted for speaking their mother tongue.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1542 — Pope Paul II establishes the inquisition in Rome.
- 1683 — Lord William Russell is beheaded in England for plotting against the king.
- 1718 — Peace of Passarowitz ends war between Holy Roman Empire and Turkey.
- 1773 — Pope Clement XIV dissolves Roman Catholic Jesuit order.
- 1798 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte wins Battle of Pyramids and becomes master of Egypt.
- 1877 — British cabinet decides to declare war on Russia if it occupies Constantinople.
- 1920 — Sinn Fein and unions riot in Belfast, Ireland; King Feisal recognizes French mandate in Syria.
- 1960 — Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike becomes premier of Ceylon after elections — first woman premier in history of British Commonwealth.
- 1962 — Indian and Chinese troops clash in two disputed areas of Kashmir.
- 1969 — US Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin Jr blast off from moon and head back to Earth after man's first lunar landing.
- 1973 — France explodes nuclear device over South Pacific island despite world-wide protests.
- 1974 — United States announces that Greek and Turkey agree to ceasefire in war on island of Cyprus.
- 1975 — Soviet Soyuz spacecraft lands safely in Soviet Central Asia after its rendezvous in space with US Apollo craft.
- 1987 — Police turn back protesting ultra-orthodox Jews who try to enter gravesite where US archaeologists and students are evacuating Byzantine-era ruins.
- 1988 — Ayatollah Khomeini calls for Iranians to accept truce with Iraq, in best interests of Islamic revolution.
- 1989 — Top Communist Party leaders in Soviet Union call for sterner restrictions on freedom of the press.



Khmer Rouge guerrillas sit on a pile of captured government artillery. (Reuters wirephoto)

Peace prospects in the balance

US withdraws recognition of Khmer Rouge

BANGKOK, Thailand, (AP): The US policy shift on Cambodia improves the prospects for a negotiated peace settlement, but also could fuel the fighting in a land that has known only war for 20 years.

The US decision to withdraw recognition of the Cambodian resistance isolates the Khmer Rouge — one of three factions in the coalition — even further and likely will harden the group's determination to win the war.

The coalition of the Khmer Rouge and the guerrilla forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann recently made its biggest gains of the war against the Vietnamese-backed government, seizing hundreds of Cambodian villages.

But in Paris on Wednesday, US Secretary of State James Baker announced the United States was changing its policy to withdraw recognition of the guerrillas and open a new dialogue with Vietnam on the Cambodian war.

Announcement

Baker's announcement reflected a growing conviction within the US administration that the Khmer Rouge forces dominate the resistance coalition, and are on the verge of taking over Cambodia.

The dramatic about-face also comes after a shift in superpower relations, with the United States and Soviet Union declaring their decade-long cold war at an end. Vietnam is Moscow's main Asian ally, and China's chief rival in the region.

At the same time, US-Chinese relations have chilled in the last year following Beijing's harsh crackdown on its democracy movement in June 1989.

For years, negotiations on ending the Cambodian war have been hampered because the United States and the resistance coalition's other key backers, China and the non-communist Southeast Asian nations, had no dialogue on the subject with Vietnam.

The United States has no diplomatic ties with Vietnam and contact between the two countries has been limited to talks on refugees, accounting for missing American soldiers and other humanitarian issues.

Vietnamese officials have stressed in recent interviews with the Associated Press they would try

to create a climate conducive to establishing diplomatic ties with Washington. Such ties are seen as crucial to Vietnam's economic development and attempts to break out of its international isolation.

The US shift accedes to Vietnam's demand for a halt to recognition of the guerrillas. It raises the possibility Vietnam will return the favour by using its influence on Phnom Penh to pressure the Hun Sen government to agree to a peace settlement.

Phnom Penh already is under heavy pressure because of the guerrillas' battlefield victories, internal dissent, and a drastic reduction in aid from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The resistance coalition, which the United States helped non-communist Southeast Asian nations create in 1982, is dominated by the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge is blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its rule of the country from 1975 to late 1978, when Vietnam invaded and installed the Hun Sen government.

The US shift brings the country into agreement with nations such as Australia and some members of the European Community, which already had adopted anti-Khmer Rouge policies.

The US shift also should be welcomed in Phnom Penh, which has adamantly rejected any significant Khmer Rouge role in the country's future.

Phnom Penh's official news agency SPK said Wednesday that in a talk this week with former US ambassador John Gunther Dean, Prime Minister Hun Sen "laid stress on measures to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot clique."

Sihanouk, the leader of the guerrilla coalition, says he hates the Khmer Rouge, but joined forces with the group because of its military punch.

The US shift may prompt some initial anger from Sihanouk, but also could allow him to gracefully disentangle himself from the Khmer Rouge and pursue a greater range of negotiating options.

Strengthen

However, Sihanouk and the third guerrilla coalition leader, former prime minister Son Sann, have warned repeatedly that freezing the Khmer Rouge

out of a peace settlement could strengthen the group's resolve to take power on the battlefield.

"It is better to have the Khmer Rouge in the settlement than to have to fight them in the jungles," a Western relief official once remarked to an Associated Press correspondent.

Son Sann recently insisted that the Khmer Rouge be represented on a "supreme national council" that Sihanouk and Hun Sen agreed to form in order to arrange a truce.

The effort to arrange appears to be failing, largely because the Khmer Rouge felt it was not treated with respect in peace talks last month in Tokyo. As a result, it was boycotted, the Sihanouk-Hun Sen agreement.

Whatever the US position, China has not reduced its support for the Khmer Rouge, which included large arms shipments. Last month, talks between China and Vietnam collapsed because both countries refused to back off their support for their allies in Cambodia.

Baker spoke with reporters after meeting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who said the US policy shift brought the positions of Moscow — allied with Hanoi — and Washington closer together.

The two are to pursue the subject further when they meet in Irkutsk, a city in Siberia, on Aug 1.

The decision to open a dialogue with Vietnam was the second US Southeast Asia policy change in less than a week.

Last Friday, Washington announced an agreement with Phnom Penh to examine remains that may be those of American servicemen missing from the Indochina war.

For more than a year, the United States and other countries, including the Soviet Union, have pursued a negotiated settlement for Cambodia.

But Baker said "the Khmer Rouge has succeeded in turning that political dialogue into a dialogue of the battlefield" since the bulk of Vietnamese troops propping up Hun Sen's government left last year.

He would not predict how close the Khmer Rouge was to seizing control. But other officials said Hun Sen's power was eroding under the weight of Khmer Rouge advances.

NAM key to UN Cambodia seat

UNITED NATIONS, (Reuters): Despite the abrupt change in US policy on Cambodia, non-aligned nations hold the key to determining who occupies Cambodia's seat at the United Nations.

"No one expected this," said one European envoy who spoke on condition of anonymity. "It could transform the situation."

"We will be prepared to and will in fact change what has been our policy regarding the seat at the United Nations which has been held by a coalition that includes the Khmer Rouge," US Secretary of State James Baker said in Paris on Wednesday.

Baker also announced that the United States would open a dialogue with its old foe Vietnam to try to end the decade-old Cambodian war.

A coalition of three guerrilla groups opposed to the Vietnam-backed government in Phnom Penh has occupied Cambodia's seat at the United Nations.

Support

Asked by a reporter if his removal of US support for that situation meant that the United States no longer backed the coalition, Baker said:

"It means that with respect to the seat in UN that is certainly the case... (but) the United States continues to support the non-communist resistance, those forces that are loyal to Son Sann and (Prince Norodom) Sihanouk."

A text of Baker's remarks was made available by the State Department in Washington.

In the past the Soviet Union and its allies, which backed the Vietnamese-installed government of Hun Sen, fought a losing battle to dislodge the coalition at the United Nations.

As long as Vietnamese troops were in Cambodia there was no thought by the West of changing the UN status quo, despite horror stories of the hundreds of thousands of civilians who died under Khmer Rouge rule in Cambodia from 1976 to 1979.

Since the Vietnamese withdrew troops last year and the Khmer Rouge, the militarily strongest mem-

ber of the coalition, stepped up attacks on the Hun Sen government, several Western nations, including Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland and the Nordic countries have indicated they want the seat left vacant.

Other European nations, both East and West, are expected to follow if no peace settlement is in sight by the time the General Assembly opens in September.

Change

But without support for a change from the Association of South East Asian Nations it is questionable whether most non-aligned countries, which form a majority in the General Assembly, will change their views.

Until the US announcement most ASEAN nations were against altering the status of Cambodia before a comprehensive peace settlement was adopted.

While ASEAN envoys on Wednesday refused comment on the US position, several Southeast Asian ambassadors in the past maintained that a vacant seat would set a bad precedent.

"You're telling countries if the United Nations doesn't like your government, your human rights record or whatever, they can dismiss it from the international arena," one said, adding: "I'm not so sure smaller nations like that."

Many parties hope the Cambodia seat will never again come to a vote.

If the current five-power talks on Cambodia involving the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France are successful, a relatively neutral Cambodian delegation would appear at the United Nations.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council, have proposed the Cambodians form a Supreme National Council made up of individuals from the four factions plus other prominent persons

to represent the nation overseas.

But to date the Cambodians have not agreed on the composition of such a council, with the Khmer Rouge advocating three-fourths representation for itself and its non-communist allies and Hun Sen rejecting any quadripartite settlement.

Some French and British diplomats are not eager to see the question of changing Cambodian representation come to a vote.

"If we lose, it would only substantiate the Khmer Rouge's power bid," a French diplomat told Reuters.

Letters to the editor

Good cops

SIR: Having stuck up at the Assafar Motorway due to a broken fan belt during late evening hours, we were hopelessly looking around for help. Within minutes a police patrol car arrived. In spite of my inadequate knowledge of Arabic, the policemen not only offered all the help but also dropped me and my family home in Salamiya in their car. I am grateful to those two young cops as well as the Kuwait Police Department for having such courteous staff.

T.D. Soni,
Shuaiba.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

S. Africa
Helen's dream of non-racial state evolving

JOHANNESBURG, (Reuters): Helen Joseph is glad to have seen the day when she could invite Nelson Mandela for tea.

The 85-year-old veteran of South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle spends her days sitting in her quiet study, reading of the wave of political reform which has swept her adopted country in the past year.

The pictures on the wall bear testimony to the dogged fight she has waged against her fellow whites for denying political rights to the black majority.

Mandela's wife Winnie smiles with Joseph from one picture frame, and international human rights awards hang proudly beside family portraits.

Suddenly, the changes for which she battled — an end to white supremacy and the advent of a non-racial South African democracy — are edging towards reality under a reform programme launched this year by President F.W. de Klerk.

Regrets

She has no regrets about the 25 years of house arrest, harassment and detention which marked her career as one of South Africa's foremost human rights activists.

"I never lost my faith, my hope for the future. I know we have a long way to go, we're in a long dark tunnel, but the light is shining at the end," Joseph said while sunning herself in the garden outside her home in Johannesburg suburb of Norwood.

The realisation that reform was in the air struck home in April, when her birthday party was "gatedashed" by African National Congress (ANC) leader Mandela, released two months before from a jail term for plotting against white rule.

"Mandela came here with Winnie, and he hadn't been here for five minutes before the entire population of Norwood was at my gate," Joseph told Reuters in an interview.

"I had always hoped I would see the day when Nelson Mandela could come to my house for a party. It was so beautiful," she said.

For 16 years between 1957 and 1982, British-born Joseph was a virtual prisoner in her home under a range of security laws designed to silence Pretoria's critics.

In 1957 she was "banned," a device used by the South African government to restrict activities and movements without bringing any criminal charges.

House arrest

Five years later she became the first person in South Africa to be placed under house arrest, living in solitary existence until 1971 when she became critically ill with cancer.

The Justice Ministry had to give her special permission to enter hospital for emergency surgery, as her banning order prevented her from mixing with more than one person at a time.

Her last ban was imposed between 1980 and 1982 after nine years of relative freedom. The government, as usual, gave no reason for the order.

A dignified, white-haired divorcee, Joseph came to South Africa in 1930 after working as a teacher in India.

Joseph started campaigning against South Africa's race policies after being stirred by a black campaign on passive resistance against apartheid in 1952.

Four years later, she was a leader of more than 10,000 women of all races who marched on the Union Buildings, the seat of government in Pretoria, to protest against laws controlling the movement of blacks.

She was accused with 155 others of treason at a marathon three-year-long trial in the late 1950s, which became a rallying point of the anti-apartheid movement and ended in the acquittal of all charged.

Politics

Despite ailing health, Joseph has maintained a strong interest in politics.

On her rare public appearances, usually in a wheelchair, she is hailed as a heroine, receiving standing ovations and emotional tributes from other, better known, names in the anti-apartheid struggle such as Mandela and Walter Sisulu.

Her Christmas Day parties have become a highlight of the South African anti-apartheid calendar, a garden get-together during which political prisoners are silently remembered.

"It became an institution, Christmas with Helen... It grew and grew and now it's so big I really don't have room for it any more. The great thing is that it means so much to people," she said.

"The fight has always been worth it. I never had any doubt about that," she added.

She is hopeful that De Klerk and Mandela will be able to carry through the programme of political negotiation launched in May which may eventually lead to some kind of power-sharing between whites and blacks.

"I pay tribute to De Klerk's courage and to his resolution. I think he is an extremely clever man and I just hope that his programme works."

"Maybe he can come for tea some day," she said as she retreated indoors to the sanctuary of her study.

QUOTE ME

"For the sake of the nation, its unity and sovereignty, we asked (Singh) to withdraw his resignation, which he agreed to do." — N.T. Rama Rao, the chairman of the governing National Front Alliance of India.

"I think that in two years, if there are no changes, this leadership must go." — Mikhail Gorbachev, on day 3 of the congress, answering reporters' questions on what should happen if there are no improvements in the lives of Soviet citizens.

"We are witnessing a congress of living corpses. The people are afraid of many things, but the party is not one of them." — Mikhail Malutin member of the Democratic Platform, in an interview with the independent Postfactum news agency on day 8 of the congress.

"Even though we have not enough votes to overthrow the government, we have enough evidence to show the public that this government is not worthy of this country." — Uthai Pimchaichon, a deputy leader of the Solidarity Party in Thailand on a motion of no-confidence against the government.

روزنامه العرب

Likud government 'a necessary step': Habash

MASCUS, July 20, (Reuters): "Don't quote me," cautions Palestinian leader George Habash. "I cannot say that pleased that the Likud came to power — my people would curse me use they are suffering."

But I can say that the coming of the Likud government (the most right-wing in modern history of Israel), whether it is or not, is a necessary step for the people of a Palestinian state."

Habash leads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist faction which is sometimes called the loyal opposition to Yasser Arafat's mainstream leadership in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

tion (PLO).

The PFLP staged some of the Palestinian movement's most spectacular airline hijackings in the 1970s but in recent years has concentrated on support for the uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

Habash, trained as a doctor at the American University of Beirut, is now a stout, patriarchal 64.

He sheds no tears for the unravelling in the past few months of US attempts to foster Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and Washington's cautious diplomatic contacts with the PLO.

"Abu Ammar (Arafat's nom de guerre)

is ready to do anything to please the US administration, but the US is asking the impossible," Habash told Reuters this week.

"The next step would be that the American administration should choose the PLO executive committee, and maybe later that they would write the resolutions..."

"For anybody with the least dignity, it is too much."

The specific point on which 18 months of US-PLO dialogue collapsed in Tunis last month was Arafat's refusal to denounce an unsuccessful raid on the Israeli coast by another PLO faction, the Pales-

tine Liberation Front of Abu Abbas.

The PLF raid is a sore point with Palestinians because Israel said it was aimed at causing mass civilian casualties.

It helped to win Israel another US veto in the UN Security Council just when the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories had burst into fresh flame.

Habash says he accepts the PLF version, that the raid was aimed at military bases.

He supports it on that basis because he believes groups should give "covering fire" to increase the strain on Israel's Army while it faces the unarmed rebellion of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

China moves to have ties with Saudi Arabia

No formal announcement from Beijing

'El, July 20, (UPI): Saudi Arabia has notified Taiwan of its intention to establish formal diplomatic relations with China, a spokesman for Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

cannot say this is not a setback," Vice Foreign Minister Chen Jen said. "Certainly, we would not like to see things like this on. But we will try to see what we can do to make the best of a not-ideal situation."

There was no immediate formal announcement of Saudi Arabia's

from either Riyadh or Beijing.

ipei and Riyadh have had ties for decades and the staunchly anti-

communist kingdom had until late been considered one of Taiwan's closest allies.

Only 28 countries maintain relations with the small island nation, and most of them are tiny Latin American states. Taiwan, after being ousted from the United Nations in 1971, has fought fiercely to hold on to the nations that recognise it.

The announcement in Taipei made no mention of a break in relations between Taiwan and Saudi Arabia, although no other country maintains ties with both China and Taiwan.

Cypriots mourn, celebrate division

COSIA, July 20, (AP): Greek Cypriots mourned and protested today to mark the 16th anniversary of the Turkish invasion that split the island. Turkish Cypriots celebrated the same event.

The anniversary activities unfolded only a few hours after an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council in New York called on both sides to refrain from action that could aggravate the tense situation.

Church bells pealed and air raid sirens wailed for 15 minutes on the Greek Cypriot side early in the day to summon people to memorial services for the thousands of victims of the invasion fighting.

At the same time Turkish tanks, troops and helicopters participated in a big victory parade in the Turkish sector of the divided capital, Nicosia.

Tens of thousands of Greek Cypriots are expected to attend a mass protest rally in the Greek Cypriot sector in the evening to mark President George Vassiliou's 10th birthday.

Tension has been building for several days in the wake of an application by Cyprus earlier this month for full membership of the European Economic Community.

Angered by the move, which was made without Turkish Cypriot approval, Rauf Denkash, the president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north, threatened retaliatory action.

Yesterday, his government, which is only recognised by Turkey, announced that Turkish troops handed over control on the empty ghost city of Varosha to Turkish Cypriot troops.

Varosha, the formerly booming Greek Cypriot tourist resort south of the port of Famagusta, has been empty since its Greek Cypriot inhabitants fled at the end of the 1974 invasion.

Cyprus Foreign Minister George Iacovou who asked for an urgent meeting of the Security Council charged that the change in the status quo in Varosha was aimed at moving Turkish settlers in to the empty town in violation of previous UN resolutions.

A council statement issued yesterday expressed concern over any action contrary to a 1984 resolution that regarded attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible.

That resolution also called for Nicosia administration of the town. Other UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the United Nations Truce Supervision Force and the return of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes, so remain unimplemented.

Peace talks between Vassiliou and Denkash, conducted under the guidance of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the establishment of a bi-lateral federation have been blocked since June 1989.



A group of homeless Israelis blockaded a door leading to the roof of the municipality in this suburb of Tel Aviv. Dozens of homeless Israelis climbed to the roof late Tuesday and threatened to blow up the building and themselves unless a government representative came to speak with them about their plight. The group voluntarily left after meeting with the mayor. (Reuters wirephoto)

Homeless Israelis end suicide threat protest

TEL AVIV, July 20, (Reuters): Homeless Israelis who climbed to a rooftop and threatened to commit mass suicide ended their protest after being promised a meeting with Housing Minister Ariel Sharon.

Thirty people, including pregnant women and small children, climbed on to the Bat Yam town hall near Tel Aviv overnight and threatened to blow themselves up by igniting a tank of cooking gas.

The protesters agreed to climb down when Mayor Ehud Kinamon promised that Housing Minister Ariel Sharon would meet them to discuss their plight.

Sharon is in charge of absorbing a massive wave of Soviet Jews whose arrival has driven rents up. Thousands of Israelis have moved into at least 30 tent communities that have sprung up around the country.

"We decided to climb down... The housing minister said he would see us in the next day..." said Avi Ninyo; "We have been living outdoors three weeks. If you don't pound on the table, nobody hears you in Israel."

Ninyo's group is living in an encampment of about 50 tents made of canvas, netting and bed sheets on the town hall lawn.

Interior Minister Aryeh Deri said yesterday that he supports an initiative to limit the number of non-Jews eligible for automatic citizenship in response to the wave of Soviet immigration.

Deri said as many as one-third of the 55,000 Soviet immigrants who have come to Israel this year are not Jews and that he supports a bill introduced in the parliament, or Knesset, that seeks to change the 1950 law of return, Israel radio reported.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has told an Israeli newspaper that his government would not block Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

"The immigration continues. We will not place any barriers before this emigration," Shevardnadze was quoted as saying in an interview published in the Hadashot newspaper.

A Soviet parliamentary delegation blamed the United States and Western Europe for exacerbating the problem of Soviet Jews migrating to Israel.

Ben Bella returning to Algeria in September after 9-year exile

ALGIERS, July 20, (Reuters): Algeria's first president after independence in 1962, Ahmed Ben Bella, will return from nine years of exile in early September, a close associate said yesterday.

"The return of Ben Bella has become close, and it will be at the beginning of September," Djamel Laïadhi, a senior official of Ben Bella's Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA), told a news conference.

The MDA was legalised last March and the return of Ben Bella, now 71, could have a profound impact on Algeria's political scene after a sweeping Muslim fundamen-

talist victory in local elections last month.

The charismatic Ben Bella was deposed by former president Houari Boumedienne in a 1965 coup d'etat. Current President Chadli Benjedid freed him from jail in 1980 but Ben Bella left the country a year later to live in France and Switzerland.

His decision to return follows a court ruling last week that overturned the seizure by Algerian customs on July 1 of documents and publications of the MDA at Algiers port.

Earlier this month the MDA began publishing its first periodical in Algeria, the fortnightly Al Badil.

"We have said that the return of Ben Bella needed preparation of the political climate. This climate for the return of Ben Bella now exists," said Laïadhi, editor of the French-printed MDA magazine Tribune d'Octobre.

Laïadhi said political parties, central committee members of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), journalists and MDA supporters had demanded Ben Bella's return.

The FLN suffered a stinging defeat in the June 12 local elections, the first free poll since independence, which brought the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front

(FIS) to power in 55 per cent of the country's municipalities.

"Ben Bella's priority will be to mobilise minds and restore confidence to a people that has lost self-confidence in everything. As a clean political man, a nationalist, I think he can play this role," Laïadhi said.

He said the MDA was open to alliance with any of Algeria's 25 legal political parties that shared its goals of preserving national unity and respecting democratic institutions.

But Laïadhi said it was premature to cite specific alliances the MDA might make.

French arms racket

Beirut embassy security chief questioned

PARIS, July 20, (AP): A police brigadier in charge of security at France's embassy in Beirut was questioned yesterday about his alleged leadership of an arms-smuggling ring which sold weapons to French criminals.

A prosecutor said Brig Jean-Claude Labourdette was among 12 policemen implicated in the case thus far.

While Labourdette was interrogated at Paris police headquarters, the Foreign Ministry ordered an internal investigation of the scandal, to be conducted in France and Lebanon. Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said there was no evidence that any diplomatic personnel were involved.

In Marseille, where the smuggled weapons allegedly were sold, prosecutor Olivier Drapeot said 12 policemen have been implicated in transactions involving about 100 assault rifles, automatic pistols and other arms brought in from Lebanon.

Drapeot said Labourdette, 47, was among four officers against whom the evidence appeared particularly strong.

Two policemen already charged in the case have identified Labourdette as the mastermind of an operation in which security officers at the Beirut embassy allegedly bought weapons from Lebanese militiamen and sold them to the French underworld.

Labourdette, 47, was flown in to Marseille early yesterday from Lebanon, then transferred to Paris. On Wednesday, investigators found three rocket launchers, handguns and much ammunition at his home in Etolles, south of Paris. Police said the rocket launchers were of a type used in attacks on armoured cars.

Labourdette had been posted in Beirut since 1984 and, according to press reports, succeeded in avoiding a scheduled transfer to Iran in 1987.

Two security officers now posted at the French embassy in Washington, but formerly posted in Beirut, were among numerous policemen and civilians being questioned by police yesterday, officials said.

The allegations prompted Interior Minister Pierre Joxe to order an investigation Wednesday of security personnel at all French diplomatic missions.

Investigators believe the ring made huge profits by purchasing handguns, assault rifles and grenade launchers from militiamen in Lebanon, a former French mandate which has been embroiled in civil war for more than 15 years.

The arms allegedly were resold to French criminals, including a gang that specialised in armoured car robberies. One holdup with assault rifles left two security guards dead in Marseille in March.

On Tuesday, a Marseille judge charged two officers, Patrick Schaller and Pierre Bessonnet, with criminal conspiracy and arms-trafficking.

Former riot officer Philippe Nino, who is serving a prison sentence for heading a car-theft ring, said the two belonged to the ring.

Nino, who also has been charged with arms-trafficking, and Schaller served as embassy guards in Beirut. The mission's security team normally comprises 100 to 150 men.

Nino said the weapons were shipped via Cyprus to France in moving crates belonging to embassy security staff. Such crates are classified as diplomatic mail and are not searched by customs.

France's ambassador in Beirut, Rene Ala, was quoted by Agence France Presse as saying it was "totally impossible" that diplomatic post had been used for arms smuggling.

Another Palestinian newspaper closed

'Black Sunday' strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 20, (UPI): Palestinians observed a general strike today to mark the May 20 slayings of seven Arab workers by an Israeli civilian that reignited the long dormant uprising.

The weekly newspaper Jerusalem also reported today that the underground leadership of the nearly 32-month-old uprising has issued a leaflet in Hebrew directed at Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories, calling on them to "be thinkers (and) make peace."

"Be people, defend your humanity, oppose violence, torture and the occupation," the newspaper quoted the leaflet. "Do you know why we are having the intifada? Why are you chasing in the streets of our cities, in our villages and in the alleys of the refugee camps?"

"Why are you shooting our youths, our children, our wives, our elders and our babies?" the leaflet asked, blaming the Israeli government and politicians for violence in the territories.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian

sources reported a 7-year-old boy from the Bureij refugee camp had his right eye removed at a Gaza city hospital today after a tear gas canister hit him during street confrontations late Thursday. The army spokesman was investigating the report.

During the week, Palestinian sources said, Israeli soldiers and border police had detained or harassed Palestinians who wore T-shirts commemorating the May 20 killings of seven Gaza residents slain by an Israeli civilian in the Israeli town of Rishon Le Zion. The "Black Sunday" T-shirts began appearing in the occupied territories and East Jerusalem shortly after the attack on the Palestinian workers.

The Interior Ministry has closed the second Israeli Arab newspaper within two weeks, charging incitement against the state and the military and failure to submit articles to censorship, officials said yesterday.

Israeli agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, a hardline former chief of staff, has proposed cut-

ting off supplies to farmers in the occupied territories as a blow against the intifada.

His spokesman Yoram Pomerantz told Reuters that he expected Eitan to raise the proposal in Israel's new right-wing government.

A senior State Department official has emphasized that the Bush administration opposes the Israeli use of excessive force in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in Israel's bid to maintain security there.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar appealed to the five permanent members of the Security Council to help get the deadlocked peace process moving in the Middle East, UN diplomats said.

"He asked them to keep the situation under constant review," said Francois Giuliani, a spokesman for Perez de Cuellar.

The secretary-general's statement to the five stopped short of a formal UN initiative, officials said.

MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

Pre-summit meetings: Preparations are currently under way to hold preliminary summit meetings between several Arab leaders, before the Cairo Arab summit in November, a Kuwaiti newspaper said.

Quoting what it described as high ranking sources in Cairo, the daily said that these meetings will be bilateral between King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and another one between King Hussein of Jordan, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Assad. (Kuna)

Two Egyptian policemen killed: Muslim extremists killed two policemen in upper Egypt, authorities confirmed yesterday, and security forces later arrested five people.

Interior Ministry sources said a gang of fundamentalists on Wednesday killed a police warrant officer in the upper Egyptian city of Menia, some 100 miles (160 km) south of Cairo, using knives and chains.

Also Wednesday, a plain clothes police officer died in the upper Egyptian province of Assiut, a hot bed of fundamentalism, when extremists stabbed him and left him to bleed to death. (UPI)

Ethiopian rebels claim victory: Ethiopian rebels of the little-known Oromo Liberation Front claimed yesterday to have killed 147 government soldiers in battles across western Wollega province.

The OLF's clandestine radio said the rebels had killed 63 soldiers last Tuesday and 84 soldiers on July 14 in Begi, 288 miles (460 km) west of the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

Monitored in Nairobi, the broadcast said the OLF had wounded more than 30 troops and captured large numbers of weapons. (UPI)

Missing Israeli plane wreckage: The wreckage of a missing Israeli military observation plane and the body of its pilot were found today in the Golan Heights, the military spokesman said.

The 33-year-old Israeli officer, whose name was not released, was on active reserve duty at an air force base in the centre of the country when he took off July 13 without authorisation in the "Agur" observation plane, a twin-engine Dornier 28. (UPI)

Punishment cancelled: A senior army officer today overruled an investigating panel's recommendation on two of the eight officers blamed

for a training accident that killed five soldiers. The investigation found no evidence of failures in back-up systems designed to prevent accidents such as the one in which an artillery shell exploded among a group of reservists Tuesday. The blast also injured 10 soldiers.

The investigation committee recommended eight officers be removed from their posts. But Maj Gen Uri Saguy, commander of army ground forces, said two of them would remain in their jobs since they were only following orders. (AP)

Satellite tour: A specially-equipped vehicle is touring 14 Middle East countries to demonstrate the latest advances in mobile satellite communications, according to the latest monthly journal published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Satellite communications are important in the Gulf, Middle East and North African states, because of the vastness of the region and limitations on the terrestrial communications infrastructure.

Designed for the International Maritime Satellite Organisation (Inmarsat), the seven metre long "Man" truck is equipped for demonstrations and experiments of maritime and land mobile satellite communications applications. (Kuna)

New wave of Falashas: Israel said today it was bracing for the arrival of a new wave of Ethiopian Jews, or Falashas, and stressed that the arrivals, originally planned for an earlier date, have been delayed for purely technical reasons in Addis Ababa. Radio Israel quoted a Foreign Ministry statement saying the Ethiopian governments pledged to honour its commitment to permit Jews to leave.

The Israeli and Ethiopian governments have agreed to delay the departure of Falashas for further checks aimed at preventing non-Jews from infiltrating to the Zionist state along with the Falashas. (Kuna)

Award for Egypt scholar: An Egyptian scholar, Prof. Dr. Mohammad M. Abdul Rauf, was today announced winner of Malaysia's Maal Hijrah personality award for this year for "his direct involvement in disseminating religious education and commitment to the Islamic struggle."

He is the first foreigner to receive the award. The previous recipients were all Malaysian Islamic scholars.

The paramount ruler, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, will confer the award on him on Monday (Kuna)

Clemency plea for UK businessman

LONDON, July 20, (AP): Shirley Richter, whose husband is serving a life sentence in Iraq, has appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for clemency.

Mrs Richter said she was happy for the family of British hospital administrator Daphne Parish, who returned to London Wednesday after Saddam released her from her 15-year prison sentence.

"Naturally I was absolutely delighted that she was released, but my thoughts naturally were also with Ian who is now entering his fifth year in imprisonment and I'm just hoping that a similar gesture will be made by

the Iraqi government to now release Ian," Mrs Richter told Independent Television News.

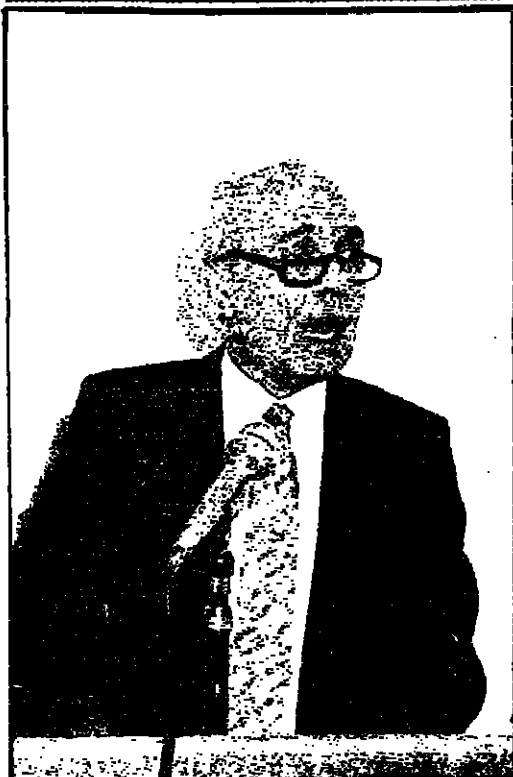
In her first interview since Ian Richter was sentenced in 1986, Mrs Richter said her 44-year-old businessman husband never believed he would receive a life sentence.

"Until Ian was sentenced he always felt that this was a terrible mistake and that he would be released so it was a terrible shock to him to realize that in fact he was facing a life sentence," Mrs Richter told ITN.

The Foreign Office said it had appealed to the Iraqi government for clemency for Richter.

EVENTS

Egyptian students honoured



Egyptian ambassador



Dr. Adel El Sheikh



(Above & below) distributing prizes.



The Egyptian Ambassador, Saad Rifaat, patronised a ceremony held by the Egyptian embassy to honour the Egyptian outstanding students who obtained over 90 per cent in the Secondary School Certificate. The ceremony was held at the Egyptian Consulate in Surra last Wednesday. It was attended by the embassy staff and a large number of Egyptians as well as honoured students. The Ambassador, Consul Al Saad Sultan and Dr. Adel Al Sheikh made speeches on the occasion, congratulating students on their good results in the SSC. Ambassador Al Rifaat then distributed certificates of appreciation to the 120 students.

Weekly television highlights

SUNDAY

July 22

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Macron 1: cartoon series
6.30 The Beachcombers: Alekos, while looking for his grandfather, takes up a job with a man called Nick. He later discovers that Nick's work is illegal. Adventure.
7.00 The Natural World: "Erie ... through mist of time." A look at the Irish, their history and traditions which they still hold on to. Cultural.

- 8.00 News in English
8.30 Made in Kuwait: A local programme about the industrial development in Kuwait.
9.00 E.N.G.: "Your Place or Mine." Ann and a TV reporter are to cover an accident involving a tanker. However, Ann feels that something is wrong. Adventure.
10.00 The Lenny Henry Show.
10.30 Best Seller: "Queenie" An Anglo-Indian girl leaves India to go to England after being accused of murder.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

MONDAY

July 23

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 She-ra: A cartoon series.
6.30 Only One Earth: "China's changing face". Life in China. Documentary.
7.00 Roving Report: A round-up of news and events which occur throughout the world. Documentary.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "Second Banana." Sara is chosen to advertise for Banana by a producer. However the producer later changes his mind. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Face to Face: An interview with Mr. Sulaiman Al Derban, the director of the medical industries in Kuwait. Documentary.
9.00 Jake and the Fat Man: A lady is murdered in her own house. Her daughter is accused of killing her. Jake seeks the truth. Adventure.

- 9.30 The People Next Door: "Dream Date." Cissi sees a silhouette in Walter's room. She insists that he invites his friend to dinner. Comedy.
10.30 The New Mission Impossible: "The Catle King." Transactions are foiled between an Australian cattle king and smugglers.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown



Jake and the Fat Man, on KTV 2, on Monday.

that he invites his friend to dinner. Comedy.

10.30 The New Mission Impossible: "The Catle King." Transactions are foiled between an Australian cattle king and smugglers.

11.30 News in Brief

11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

TUESDAY

July 24

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Chic and Dale's Rescue Team: A cartoon series.

- 6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: A new way to play hide and seek. Activities and ideas for children/early teens.
7.00 International Overdoorman: "Exotic animals of the World." A look at the activities held by the animal protection association in the US to protect wildlife from extinction. Documentary.

- 7.30 Kate and Allie: "Wanted: One Husband." A rich woman offers Allie US\$30,000 to find a man similar to her husband in every respect. Comedy.

- 8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law
8.45 Border Town
9.00 Horizon: "Legacy of a volcano." A group of scientists attempt to restore life at St Helen Volcano. Documentary.

- 9.30 Perfect Strangers: "Better shop around." The cousins win a prize at the supermarket. Their problems begin. Comedy.

- 10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Better shop around." The cousins win a prize at the supermarket. Their problems begin. Comedy.

- 10.30 The Fortunes of War
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

WEDNESDAY

July 25

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The Karate Kid: A cartoon series.

- 6.30 Alf: "Stairway to Heaven." Alf thinks about leaving earth, however, he is offered a better job in other place. What will he do? Comedy.

- 7.00 P.M. Magazine: Strange news from around the world. Documentary.

- 8.00 News in English
8.30 Chart Attack: A variety of songs from the Music Box charts.

- 9.15 Paradise: "A gathering of gods." Ethan is arrested by the Sheriff of Mexico. Emilia tries to rescue him. Adventure.

- 10.00 Witness to Survival: A survivor of flight 232 returns to the ablated plane to save the life of a one-year-old. Documentary.

- 10.30 Late night film
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

THURSDAY

July 26

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 MGM Warner cartoons

- 6.30 My Secret Identity: "Photon blues." Projector Photon, a new invention, is stolen from the lab. Dr Jefcot seeks Andrew's help for its recovery. Adventure.

- 7.00 Star Trek: "Loud as a



Wednesday, 9.15 — Paradise City.

whisper." Captain Peckard goes to Solas 5. He meets Riva who is mute but she starts him by being able to communicate with some. Adventure.

8.00 News in English
8.30 Adventurer: "Sovay." Jack saves the lives of a woman and man with strange histories. Adventure.

9.30 The Paul Daniels Magic show
10.00 The Bill Cosby Show: "It isn't Romantic." An inter-family competition occurs; to see who is more romantic of the males. They each have to buy a gift for their wives. Comedy.

10.30 Late night film: "Cave In." A group of people are stuck in a cave 3,000 feet deep after it caves in.

12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

July 27

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 MGM Warner cartoons

6.30 A Family Film: "Davy Crockett." The story of a famous Tennessee hunter and an Indian scout who died in Alamo. Adventure.

8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational activities throughout various parts in Kuwait. Documentary.

8.45 T and T: "Hunted." Someone tries to kill Mr. T. A bodyguard is thereby hired. However Mr T. does not like this idea. Adventure.

9.15 Globe TV: A Ticket to the world. Looking at different places on earth. Documentary.

10.00 Doctor Doctor: Dr Michael is offered a job with the team at the hospital. Comedy.

10.30 Men Men: "Baltimore." Dr Steve saves the life of a young girl.

11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

WHAT'S ON

Social

Filipino expats survey
The office of the welfare officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is launching an initial information campaign to conduct a survey of Filipino workers in Kuwait.

This will cover statistical data on the number of Filipino workers employed in the private companies and government institutions. It will also include such information as job classifications, tenure of contracts, duration of residence and other information about the workers.

The Filipino Workers Social Centre (FWSC) at the Philippine embassy is also inviting volunteers for its various social and welfare projects designed to minimise the mounting problems of overseas contract workers — thereby ensuring the general welfare of Filipinos.

The official survey form can be obtained from welfare officer, Alejandro Samia Santos at the following tel. Nos. 5329315, 5329316, 5329317, 5329318 & 5329319.

LIL
July 30: 10 am to 12 noon. LIL will hold a new comer's coffee morning on Monday at the Sheraton Hotel, Mezzanine floor. Ladies new to LIL or Kuwait are welcome. For details contact Janet 2434941.

Approb 'Who's Who' directory
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) is planning to publish a "Who's Who" directory of prominent Pakistani professionals and businessmen resident in Kuwait by January 1991. The directory aims at providing information about all Pakistanis proficient and distinguished in their professions and businesses.

Data forms are available free of cost from Approb executive board members and other locations. For further details contact Approb on Tel. No. 2425315. Fax: 5323751, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024 Salmiya, Kuwait.

A copy of the directory will be given free of charge to all individuals whose names will appear in the directory.

Summerbelle '90
Aug 2: United Gowns Centre will hold Summerbelle '90 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. Top Ranks and Hurricane Alley in attendance. For reservations call Tony 2612024; Cyril 2523930; Joe 655140.

Music

Rock and Reggae
July 22: "Let's Rock and Reggae", a concert with Steve Michael and the Afro Beat, will be held from 9pm at the Holiday Inn Hotel's Grand Ballroom. Vocalist Sheryl Pereira will make a special appearance as a soloist and also join Steve in some duets. Tina Mathews will perform a Reggae dance routine. Reservations open. Tel: 2405648; 2476660; 5714340; 5721030. Tickets also available from special desk in Holiday Inn lobby. The concert is being organised and presented by Phil Danielle. Early bookings are advised due to limited seating.

Filipino rock opera
July 27: *Kailangan ka ni maria* ... If you have the talent to sing and dance and act, you may be one of the performers required in *Maria makiling* ... isang rock opera ... a musical play to be presented by Kamay (Kalipunan ng Mapaglikhang Pinoy sa Kuwait) in co-operation with the Filipino Cultural Club (FCC) and the Philippine

embassy on October 19, 1990 at the Kuwait Ice Skating Rink Theatre. The show is a folkloric stage play which will feature slow and hard rock songs, composed and adapted to dramatise the story, a Filipino rock band to play the music and some interpretative cultural dances.

Interested parties may join the audition on July 27, Friday at the Mabuhay Restaurant Ballroom from 4 pm to 8 pm. For further details, please contact any Kamay officer at their after-six headquarters, Mabuhay Restaurant.

Hotels

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Buffets featuring Continental and Oriental cuisine; emphasis on seafood.
Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic style dining on Thursday nights; music by resident Arab band.
Friday Family Lunch: Disney Fantasy: children half price.

At the Meridien
La Brasserie
Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.
Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.
Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousouki music.
Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.
Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet family day.
Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the SAS
Bistrotto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner. Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.
Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the International
Fallah: situated on the 19th floor, overlooking the coastline, it offers international cuisine; live entertainment in the evenings. Closed on Fridays.
La Palma: offers buffet as well as a la carte. Family style brunch on Fridays.
Ket: offers Japanese dining in an oriental atmosphere.
La Patisserie: selection of snacks; pianist in the evenings.
Al Wah: ice cream promotion featuring different flavours, until August 1990.

At the Sheraton:
Hunt Room: Daily buffet lunch in addition to a la carte; plus grilled specialties; a la carte dinner plus some specialties from Le Tarbouche; Duo Fantasy in attendance.
Riccardo Restaurant: will be open for dinner 8pm to 11pm with live entertainment by Regina and Frances.
Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6am to 10:00am.

At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.
Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.
Al Berdownah: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Plaza:
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.
Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.
Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

All Filipino Scramble Tournament
July 20: Filcheck have announced the all-female scramble tournament, scheduled to start on Friday, July 20, will now be open to all Filipinos, male and female. Deadline for entries is July 19.

A total of 15 minutes is allocated for each player to finish the game; a player who exceeds the time limit will cease to play and his/her last score will be considered as the last score. Each player is required to use a chess clock to monitor time. The winner or the player with the highest score will earn 3 points; third one point and the last zero point. In case of a tie, the player with the highest score wins.

The champion and the two runners-up will each receive a trophy and valuable gift items. Registration forms are available at the Kabayan Restaurant. For details contact Edward/Liza 2402405.

Education
British Council
The British Council is giving out information on how to get British qualifications through correspondence. Details about the names of colleges, dates and fees can be obtained from the Education Office, open from 9 am to 12.30 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film

Al Salmiya
Arabic film

Al Hamra
Arabic film

Drive-In
Arabic film

Al Firdous
Aakhri Gulam

Fahadhel Open
Pyr Ke Naam Qurban

Fahadhel
Orw Vadakkan

Veera Gadha

Al Jahra
Ultra Force

Granda
Hall booked

Salaikhah
Arabic film

Jeeb
Aksharathettu

Ahmadi Drive-In
Funny Family

PRAYERS

Fajr: 3.30 am
Zuhr: 11.53
Asr: 3.29 pm
Maghreb: 6.48
Isha: 8.15

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran

9.15 Cartoons

9.40 Ifah Ya Simsim

10.00 Good Morning

10.30 Waad Al Nahaar: Arabic serial, featuring Azza Kamal, Mustafa Fahmi.

11.15 Sabah Al Khair

12.00 Al Kanaz: Arabic serial, featuring Hind Kamel, Nazar Al Samari.

1.00 Songs

1.05 World News via Satellite

1.30 Al Sanafer: cartoon serial

2.00 The News

2.30 Surkhah Nadam: Gulf serial, featuring Ali Hassan, Maryam Saleh

3.30 Arabic serial: Shumoua Al Saada, featuring Abu Baker Ezzat and Karima Mukhtar

5.30 Cartoons

6.00 The Young Artist

6.30 Nour Al Islam

7.45 Islamic Speech

8.25 Citizens and Safety

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Al Zaira: featuring Sameera Yacoub, Shereen

10.45 Songs

11.00 Saaloo Lakin Shuaraa: Arabic serial, featuring Mona Wasaf, Ahmed Maner

12.00 News Summary

12.05 World News via Satellite

12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

6.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. A cartoon

6.30 series
Abracadabra: "The Brain". How the brain—the great miracle works and some of its many functions. Scientific.

7.00 The Hogan Family: "Teacher's pet." David invites his chemistry teacher to dinner. A surprise is waiting for them at the restaurant. Comedy.

7.30 The Last Frontier: "The silent killers." The latest experiments carried out on divers' costumes and optimum underwater protection. Documentary.

8.00 News in English

8.30 Murder She Wrote: "Fixer upper." Jessica sets out to prove that her accused niece, Victoria, is innocent. Adventure.

9.30 Adventures in Space: "The best stuff, Testing times ..." The development of the aircraft industry and the invention of rocket motors which have highly increased speeds and altitudes. Documentary.

10.30 Late night film: "Sea Gulls Fly Low." Starring: Natalie Delone and Miel Ferrer. A man kills one of his partners, for self-protection he also has to kill another, however he does not want to and thereby seeks for a method to avoid killing again. Adventure.

12.00 News in brief

12.10 Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Crude prices up in New York

Aqazadeh hopes Opec will raise oil prices to \$20

NICOSIA, Cyprus, July 20, (Agencies): Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh says he is optimistic that Opec will raise oil prices to \$20 a barrel when the leaders meet next week, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported on Thursday.

The agency said Aqazadeh was speaking in Tehran on Wednesday when he returned from visits to Libya, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates.

His trip was aimed at co-ordinating efforts to hike the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' benchmark price of \$18 a barrel by two dollars when Opec's ministers meet in Geneva July 25.

The glut pushed prices down as low as \$14 a barrel last week, but they have been climbing back following pledges by Kuwait and the UAE to stick to their quotas.

Aqazadeh admitted on Wednesday that while some Opec members, including Iran, favoured a price hike at next week's meeting, other members wanted to vote on the increases in meetings scheduled for September and October.

Baghdad has said it favours hiking prices to \$25 a barrel.

Political differences among Opec's 13 members have often spilled into the deliberations, leading to disagreements on quotas and prices.

Internal differences in Venezuela, the fourth largest producer in Opec, may lead to additional disagreements in Geneva.

The head of Venezuela's state oil monopoly, Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A., said on Wednesday Caracas must stop acting as a mediator in Opec and start standing up for its rights, and demand an immediate quota increase.

Company president Andres Sosa Pietri, who apparently has the backing of President Carlos Andres Perez, said the oil industry needs the money that would come in from additional exports to finance an expansion programme.

The company is pressing to increase its

current quota of 1.94 million barrels a day to 2.2 million barrels immediately and 2.4 million barrels later, Sosa Pietri said.

The company's position is at odds with Energy Minister Celestino Armas, who last week said that Venezuela would not ask for a higher quota while prices remain below \$18 a barrel.

He said that "Venezuela should stop playing the role of mediator. Every time we do, the other countries take a bigger share of the quotas."

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the world's largest oil exchange, the benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for August delivery shot up 44 cents on the day

to \$18.99 a barrel.

The high on the day was \$19.51 and the low was \$18.47 a barrel.

Trading volume was an extremely heavy 149,604 contracts. The Merc's WTI record of 175,383 contracts was set Dec 17, 1987.

Three oil companies -- the Radnor, Pennsylvania-based Sun Co., Marathon Oil Co., the Findlay, Ohio, unit of USX Corp., and Houston's Conoco Inc., subsidiary of Du Pont -- all raised the posted price they will pay for crude at the wellhead by 75 cents to \$18 a barrel for WTI.

After opening on the Merc at \$18.52 a barrel, WTI quickly moved up through the \$18.80-\$18.85 resistance level and jumped

over \$19 a barrel, said Peter Beutel, a trader with Merrill Lynch Futures Inc.

The secretary-general of the Arab League arrived in Kuwait today to try and defuse tension between Kuwait and Iraq.

Libya also called today for the Arab League to set up a fact-finding committee to examine the dispute, according to a report on Tripoli radio monitored in Cairo.

"The Arab Republic of Egypt calls on all Arab brethren at this juncture to give top priority to consolidating Arab solidarity and avoiding any complications that could undermine the strength of the Arab front," Cairo radio quoted a statement from Mubarak's office as saying.

Claims on Opec up by \$1.9b: BIS survey

BASLE, (Switzerland), July 20, (Kuna): Credit claims on Opec countries by banks reporting to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) expanded by 1.9 billion dollars during the second half of 1989, the BIS reported Thursday.

This was largely accounted for by new credits to private entities and was accompanied by a shortening of maturity profiles.

The largest takers of new funds were Iraq (\$2.2 bn), Indonesia (\$1.1 bn), Algeria and Iran (0.4 billion dollars each).

In contrast to most other countries, Iraq recorded a lengthening of the maturity profile of its outstanding debt and a sizeable increase in public sector borrowing, the BIS noted.

On the other hand, banks' outstanding claims fell against Venezuela (\$1.5 billion), Nigeria (\$0.9 billion), and Ecuador (\$0.4 billion). In the case of Venezuela, banks mainly reduced their inter-bank positions and continued to scale down their credit commitments.

The decline in the case of Nigeria and Ecuador was due to the non-renewal of public debt, falling due.

At the end of 1989, the total bank claims on Opec countries stood at \$101.5 billion, compared to \$101.3 billion at the end of 1988.

In terms of billions of dollars, the 1989 year-end claims were as follows: Algeria (14.2), Indonesia (18.8), Iran (2.3), Iraq (10.1), Kuwait (5.7), Nigeria (7.3), Saudi Arabia (5.9), and Venezuela (23.1).

Claims by Western commercial banks expanded by 9.8 per cent on Eastern Europe last year and by 18.4 per cent on the Soviet Union, according to BIS.

The Bank of International Settlements survey said the banks' claims -- including loans plus accrued interest -- on Eastern Europe went up by 3.3 billion dollars during the July-December period to 96 billion dollars following a 5.3 billion increase in the first half.

Claims on the Soviet Union stood at 43.2 billion at the end of the year, rising by 1.9 billion in the second half after increasing by 4.8 billion in the first half. Undisbursed credit commitments also continued to expand.

At the same time, the Soviet Union drew down its deposits with the reporting Western banks by \$1.3 billion, according to the survey.

The other major Eastern European borrower during the second half of 1989 was East Germany at \$800 million and Czechoslovakia at 700 million.

Claims on East Germany totalled 17 billion and on Czechoslovakia were 5.3 billion at the end of the year. Claims in Hungary totalled \$11.9 billion, up 100 million, and were 10 billion on Poland, down 200 million.

Lending to Third World countries -- excluding Opec members -- dropped by 9.3 billion to 300.4 billion dollars. Of these, claims on Latin American countries declined by 7.7 billion to 176.1 billion.

Oil revenue increase strengthens GCC six

Economic climate in '89 marked a departure from previous years

RIYADH, July 20, (Opecna): An increase in oil revenues in 1989 has enabled member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to relax their grip on government expenditure, according to Dr Khaled Al Fayed, chief executive officer of the Gulf Investment Corporation.

In a press statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) yesterday, he said the improved financial situation had, in turn, boosted private and public investment expenditure, construction activities, stock market performance, deposits and demand for com-

mercial credits, business volume of retail sales and real estate prices.

This trend, he said, was also strengthened by the end of the Iraq-Iran war and the concomitant expansion in petrochemical, aluminium and other manufactured exports.

"Though short of a euphoria, the business and economic climate in 1989 marked a discernible departure from that which prevailed in the region during the previous six years," commented Al Fayed.

N. African leaders to seek integration

Maghreb common market talks

ALGIERS, July 20, (Reuters): Five North African leaders met on Sunday to promote economic integration, challenged by the rise of European unity across the Mediterranean and Muslim fundamentalism at home.

Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania hold their fourth summit more aware than ever of the need to find jobs for their fast-growing populations and develop their own resources in the face of a resurgent Europe.

Foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union, formed in February 1989, were to meet on Friday to finalise drafts of integration accords covering taxes, investment, customs and transport.

Agenda

Not on the agenda, but almost certain fundamentalist groups. Oils swept to victory in local polls in Algeria last month -- the country's first free elections.

The triumph of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has emboldened fundamentalists in neighbouring Morocco and Tunisia and heightened their demands for democratic reform.

Asked if the elections would slow the formation of a Maghreb common market, Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil told the French daily Le Monde last month: "They should not in our view effect a project as important as the Maghreb union."

Developments

An Algerian foreign ministry official said internal Algerian developments were not on the agenda but "We are ready to explain our reforms."

Algeria broke ranks with Maghreb partners last year by legalising the FIS as part of sweeping moves toward a multiparty democracy, one of the region's freest.

With parliamentary elections that could bring the FIS to power widely expected next year, neighbours are anxiously watching developments.

The five states, uniting some 65 million people from the Atlantic to the eastern Mediterranean,

see integration as a means of spurring economies hit by foreign debt, fragile if not falling exports and increased dependence on imported food.

But while they share a common language and religion, radically different political and economic systems make unity a tough challenge.

Impact

Economic differences have only partially been narrowed by limited reforms in the state-run socialist economies of Libya and Algeria.

King Hassan is said to be concerned about the impact of Algerian fundamentalism on his country's centuries-old monarchy. Tunisia eyes Algeria's democratic experiment warily, while flamboyant revolutionary Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi thanks parties of any kind as a travesty of rule by the masses.

These differences could come into play when the leaders discuss plans for total freedom of movement between Maghreb countries on presentation of a common identity card.

Trade

Inter-Maghreb trade now accounts for only two per cent of the total and the non-convertibility of Maghreb currencies makes prospects for a big increase remote.

The Algerian news agency APS said the leaders would discuss nine draft integration agreements and 24 conventions. Ties with the European Community and other regional groups and the site of permanent secretariats are also likely to be on the agenda.

The agreements would lay the groundwork for a customs union whose target date is 1995, eliminating double imposition of taxes and guarantee inter-Maghreb investment.

The heads of state will discuss creation of a common airline and improvement of rail transport -- it now takes 48 hours to travel 2,500 km (1,500 miles) by train between Tunis and Casablanca.

Call for abolition of Opec quotas

CARACAS, July 20, (AP): Venezuela must stop acting as a mediator in Opec and start standing up for its rights, including an immediate quota increase, PDVSA President Andres Sosa Pietri said Wednesday.

The head of the state oil monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A., who apparently has the backing of President Carlos Andres Perez, said the oil industry needs the money that would come in from additional exports to finance its expansion.

PDVSA is pressing to increase its current 1.94 million barrels per day quota to 2.2 million "immediately" and 2.4 million by the beginning of next year, said Sosa Pietri in his speech at the IV Venezuelan Petroleum Congress.

PDVSA's position is directly contrary to that of Energy Minister Celestino Armas, who last week said that Venezuela would not ask for higher quotas while prices remain below \$18 a barrel.

Sosa Pietri stressed that he was in no way advocating Venezuela's pulling out of Opec, the organisation it helped found 29 years ago. But he also said that he saw no reason for other Opec countries to object to Venezuela's demands "because it certainly wouldn't be in the best interests of Gulf countries for Venezuela to leave Opec."

The current quota is so "unfair," he said, that PDVSA has been forced to buy almost 300,000 bpd from other Opec countries to cover its market.

Venezuela is currently Opec's fourth largest producer, after Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq. Its reserves stand 6th in the world without counting the extra heavy crudes and bitumens of the Orinoco river belt.

Oil ministers from four African Opec states on Wednesday said they supported efforts by the organisation to push oil prices higher.

Opec President Sadek Boussena of Algeria and the ministers of Libya, Nigeria and Gabon said in a statement after a meeting in Tripoli that they were satisfied with a "new spirit of co-operation" that was emerging.

"The ministers... welcomed the determination of all Opec members to give priority to restoring prices to a level higher than \$18 per barrel," the statement sent to Reuters said.

The United States was more dependent on foreign oil imports in the first six months of 1990 than ever before, the American Petroleum Institute said on Wednesday.

From January to June, the United States got 49.9 per cent of its oil from other countries, API said. The previous six-month high was 48.8 per cent during the first six months of 1977.

In June, the United States imported 52.3 per cent of its oil.

Business briefs

GIB profits up: Gulf International Bank (GIB), the second-biggest offshore bank in Bahrain, said yesterday its net profit for the first half of 1990 rose 155.5 per cent to \$32.5 million from the same period in 1989. GIB recorded a loss of \$692.5 million for the whole of 1989 after setting aside \$725 million in provisions for LDC (less developed country) debt in a bid to rid itself of the problem completely.

The bank said in a statement that operating income rose to \$58.35 million in the first six months of 1990 from \$4.77 during first-half 1989. Expenses fell to \$25.87 million from 25.53 million.

Assets edged up to \$9.9 billion on June 30, 1990, from 9.6 billion at the middle of the previous year.

The bank is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. (Reuters)

Floating rate certificate formed: The syndicate for the Taib \$25,000,000 floating rate certificate of deposit has now been formed. Lead manager is ABC Investment and Services Co., co-lead managers are Alahli Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Co., and co-managers are Arab International Bank, Bahrain Branch, Banque Indosuez, Algemene Bank Nederland, Alubai Arab International Bank, and International Bank of Asia Limited.

The signing will take place in Bahrain at ABC Tower on July 25, 1990, with a payment date of August 14, 1990. (Press release)

Oman warns of defacing notes: The Central Bank delivered a stiff public warning on Thursday to stem the rising number of people defacing banknotes with what it termed "indecent expressions".

Notices appeared in English-language and Arabic newspapers cautioning that writing on a banknote could cancel its monetary value.

The bank said Oman had introduced security measures in banknote printing technology to prevent what it called "forgery and cheating."

But it said: "It has been observed for some time that there is an increasing trend among the public to write on banknotes -- telephone numbers, names, verses of poetry or even indecent expressions."

The bank statement noted that the designs and words of the notes are also sometimes tampered with.

The Omani rial is pegged to the US dollar and was devalued by 10 per cent in 1986 when oil prices slumped. Its current value is 38 US cents. (AP)

IPU plans for conference: The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) plans to organise a special conference by way of initiating a North-South dialogue on the crucial issue of Third World debt, Leila Takla, an Egyptian member of parliament, told Kuna in an interview.

Here to attend an expert group meeting of the IPU executive committee, of which she is a member, Takla on Wednesday said the proposal for holding such a conference of parliamentarians to tackle the debt issue would be a major issue before the next general conference of the IPU to be held in Uruguay in October.

As the major force behind such an initiative by the IPU, Takla said the purpose of a special IPU conference on debt was to have a major North-South dialogue on debt and then use the findings of such a conference to bring pressure to bear on the governments of both developed and developing countries. (Kuna)

Japan lists China's faults: A high-level Japanese delegation has complained to Chinese officials about the problems of investing in China, Japanese sources said today.

The delegation told a group of Trade Ministry and other officials that China needed political stability before investment was viable.

They also complained about a general ignorance of trade laws among Chinese officials, the sources said.

The delegation, led by Sakurao Tanino, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, left Beijing yesterday after a two-day visit.

The sources said the group complained that Chinese officials were generally ignorant about investment in Japan.

The Japanese were also unhappy about regional variations in Chinese law, irregular and insufficient supplies of raw materials and a creaky infrastructure, the sources said.

The delegation said the system under which the Chinese government took a cut from joint-venture workers' salaries discouraged the labour force, the sources said.

China needs long-term Japanese investment, hoping to benefit from its superior technology, quality control and management techniques. (Reuters)

US have no veto over new bank: The United States will have no veto over decisions in the new bank for loans to move Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union away from communism, US Treasury Undersecretary David C. Mulford said on Wednesday.

The United States will make the largest single contribution of the 42 members, \$1.2 billion out of \$1.2 billion. That will cover the first five years of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The United States will actually pay in only \$360 million and the rest of its contribution will be on call.

"US participation in the EBRD is central to the conduct of our foreign and economic policies in the new democracies of Eastern Europe," Mulford told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

among the ACC countries for the next two years.

The centre would eventually be transformed into a bank for settlements with a paid-up capital of at least \$100 million, would settle visible and non-visible payments, provide facilities for ACC trade, encourage private sector to set up joint investments and look into securing new dimension through borrowing from financial markets and from Arab and international agencies.

ACC trade ministers ended a meeting in Amman yesterday and agreed to adopt a list of 34 commodities to avoid from customs duties.

Petra news agency said the government ordered Petra Bank, once Jordan's second biggest bank, closed and transferred its accounts to another financial institution to repay customers' deposits.

The Economic Security Committee, created when martial law was imposed 23 years ago, said the decision will take effect tomorrow.

It said Central Bank governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi will be in charge of the liquidation process and "shall have full authority

Dollar closes lower in Europe

LONDON, July 20, (Agencies): The US dollar closed mostly lower in quiet trading against the major European currencies today. Gold was down.

Dealers said the dollar remained boxed in a tight range as Wall Street failed to give direction.

The dollar closed marginally lower against the German mark in Frankfurt, at 1.6420 marks against yesterday's close of 1.6425, but was unchanged in Zurich at 1.4085 Swiss francs.

In London, the pound closed lower against the dollar at \$1.8135 against \$1.8155 at yesterday's close. The US unit fell in Paris, Brussels and Milan, at \$5.075 French francs against 5.52076 at 33.85 Belgian francs from 33.92 and at 1.20250 lire from 1.20540.

In Zurich, gold closed lower at \$361.50 an ounce from \$363 an ounce yesterday, and also was down in London at \$361.25 an ounce against \$362.50 an ounce.

In Tokyo, stocks took a dive today while the dollar ended mixed in quiet trading.

The key 225-share Nikkei index plummeted 634.10 points or 1.92 per cent to 32,512.16, but gained 7.51 points yesterday and more than 1,200 points in the seven trading days leading up to today.

The dollar firmed against the yen, but ended mixed against other currencies in quiet trading.

The dollar fell to 1.6420 marks from 1.6480 marks on Wednesday and rose to 148.13 yen from 147.76.

In New York, a late rally in oil company stocks drove blue chip issues into the plus column on Wall Street yesterday after the market was down earlier on a spate of disappointing corporate earnings reports.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 12.13 points to 2,993.81, putting the index just short of the elusive goal of 3,000. Early in the session, the index was down more than 20.00 points as traders focused on downbeat corporate earnings.

Volume was active at 162.0 million shares, up from 168.8 million on Wednesday. However, declines led advances by a 853-811 margin. The average price rose 10 cents.

"The oil stocks have led my rally back," said George Pirrone of Dreyfus Corp.

Among oil issues, Texaco jumped 1-3/4 to 61-1/2, Exxon climbed 1-1/2 to 50 and Mobil jumped 2-1/4 to 65-3/4 following a sharp rise in crude oil prices.

The start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 4.8291 Swiss francs as against the closing rate of 4.8492 yesterday, the Swiss-Kuwaiti bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.6293 (\$5.627), the pound sterling at 8852 (1.8930), Japanese yen 303.4251 (303.4241), and the US dollar remained unchanged at 3.4419.

Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit rates were generally steady yesterday but overnight rates rose sharply on tightening liquidity, dealers said.

Overnight rose to 8-5/8, 3/4 per cent and dealt at those levels, compared with 8-1/8, eight, on Wednesday. Some business was also reported in tomorrow's next, which was quoted unchanged at 8-1/2, 1/4 per cent. Spot next dealt at 8-1/4.

One to three-month deposits were also indicated steady at 8-5/8, 3/8, six-months at 8-3/4, 1/2 and one-year at 8-7/8, 5/8.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate softer to 0.2902373 to the dollar from 0.2898595 on Wednesday.

Saudi riyal interbank deposits eased around 1/16 point on back of lower dollar rate on Thursday, with business continuing to focus on the short-dates, dealers said.

One-week traded at around 7-5/8, 3/8 per cent compared with levels of 7-11/16, 7/16 on Wednesday.

over all Petra Bank affairs until the dissolution process is finished.

The economic security committee took Petra Bank over last year and appointed a government management team after the bank's founder, Iraqi-born businessman Ahmad Chalaby, was accused of mismanagement and currency speculation that damaged the Jordanian dinar.

Authorities also accused Chalaby of smuggling bank money out of Jordan, which precipitated the bank's financial crisis.

GCC bids Arab economic unity

To set up joint industrial ventures

MANAMA, July 20, (Opecna): The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) is preparing to establish an integrated system to encourage joint industrial ventures among its six member states, according to a report by a local daily here.

Quoting an authoritative source at the GCC secretariat in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the "Al Ayam" newspaper said that co-ordination and industrial integration were essential steps towards achieving Arab economic unity.

Mohamed Ali Al Rashid, director of the GCC industry, electricity and technology department, disclosed that feasibility studies on manufacturing and communications equipment in Kuwait and the production of limestone bricks in Saudi Arabia were currently underway.

He said that a unified customs protection policy among the GCC member nations was the most important step in the integration process. A technical committee would be set up in October to enlist commodities subject to protection in each member state.

Al Rashid noted that several technical committees had been formed to boost electricity co-operation among Arab countries, adding that they were currently studying a project aimed at joining the national grids of GCC countries to serve as a link between Arab Mashreq (Middle Eastern Arab countries) and Arab Maghreb (North African Arab states).

The GCC comprises Opec member countries Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to Oman and Bahrain.

US defence industry workers being laid off

WASHINGTON, July 20, (UPI): Peace has its price.

Across the country, tens of thousands of defence industry workers are learning that they are no longer needed to bolt together aircraft, design electronics for radar jamming and run the machinery that forges artillery shells.

So far, roughly 30,000 workers out of an estimated 3.4 million civilian defence industry workers have been

laid off, and a study by the defence budget project suggests the total could hit 250,000.

Over the next five years as many as a half-million uniformed military personnel could be dumped into the labour market.

McDonnell Douglas, the biggest defence contractor in the country, said this week it will eliminate between 14,000 and 17,000 jobs by the end of the year, and the Lockheed Corp. recently

announced it will lay off up to 6,000 workers in closing its Burbank, Calif., operation and moving the work to Georgia.

The House Armed Services Committee — a panel that in the past decade has helped direct about \$3 trillion in Cold War spending — Thursday began taking a look at how those who led the defence buildup can help soften its retreat.

Some variety of assistance is almost

certain to be included in the defence bill by the time it passes the House. A provision in the defence bill would order that \$200 million of the Pentagon's budget in 1991 be set aside for a variety of programmes that would cushion the blow with added retraining and economic development programmes.

In addition, a subcommittee of the House Banking Committee passed a measure yesterday that would require

domestic production of parts of weapons system if they are determined to be essential to national security, an approach that could save or create some defence jobs.

Witness John Bullard, mayor of New Bedford, Massachusetts, knows first-hand of the crunch that is coming. Chamberlain Manufacturing Corp., which makes artillery shells, in six weeks will lay off nearly 40 per cent of its work force of 500 people in New Bedford.

Speaking on behalf of the US conference of mayors, Bullard said the \$200 million proposal should be considered just the start.

"It is crucially important that defence-related industries and the communities and workers which support them develop a game plan, a preemptive strategy to deal with these dislocations before they occur," said Bullard.

Chairman may quit to save Bond Corp

LONDON, July 20, (Reuters): Australian tycoon Alan Bond said on Thursday he was ready to quit to save his struggling brewing, media and property empire.

He told disgruntled investors he would resign as chairman of Bond Corporation Holdings Ltd if they agreed to plans to restructure the company by selling off its breweries and accept a one-year moratorium on interest payments.

Bond Corp director Peter Lucas said after the closed London meeting: "Mr Bond announced that if bondholders approve the sale of the breweries and grant the interest moratorium he will stand down as chairman."

A decision on the proposals was postponed until August 9 so that all bondholders could be informed.

Bond, 52, one of a generation of buccaneering Australian businessmen, became a national hero in 1983 when his yacht Australia II won the America's Cup, but his business has tottered to the brink of collapse as debts mounted.

The British-born former signwriter's \$10 billion (7.5 billion US) empire built over 16 years rode out the 1987 share market crash and became one of Australia's 10 largest companies.

But declining confidence in Bond's business methods and worries over his unpredictability, which formed the foundations of the group caused the whole edifice to crumble.

Bond Corp is weighed down by more than five billion US dollar of debt despite asset sales of more than 1.2 billion.

Thursday's resignation offer came after a revolt by investors holding only about 10 per cent of the total debt.

EMU switch may cause joblessness

LONDON, July 20, (Kuna): A rapid switch to a single European currency would cause massive rises in regional unemployment, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd warned Friday.

It would also cause significant economic upheaval and leaps in the jobless totals in Mediterranean countries in particular, he said.

But Hurd added that Britain would not rule out supporting a single currency forever.

"This should only happen if and when our peoples and governments want it to happen," he told a meeting of Edinburgh, Scotland, Conservatives.

The foreign secretary pledged that Britain was committed to a process of economic and monetary union.

Hurd attacked Euro policies of both the British main opposition Labour Party and the Scottish nationalists.

GATT talks bogged down

EC-US disagree on subsidies, quotas

BRUSSELS, Belgium, July 20, (AP): The EC said Thursday it did not seek to ruin talks to liberalise world trade, but denounced the US stand on trade in textiles and farm goods — two areas essential to the talks' success.

The 105-nation talks began in 1986 and are to end in December. While progress has been made in many areas, talks on cutting farm subsidies have bogged down in disagreement, notably between the United States and the 12-nation European Community.

"With relentless pressure, the American message has been that export subsidies must be eliminated," EC Agriculture Commissioner Ram MacSharry said Thursday in Dublin.

He said this was not the agreed goal of the talks when they began.

He said the EC had already reduced subsidies for its 9.6 million farmers. He accused the United States and others of engaging in anti-EC "propaganda."

EC defensive on farm subsidies

Gatt seeks changes

BRUSSELS, July 20, (Reuters): The European Community's controversial Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is under the fiercest attack in its 30-year history.

Reports of its demise may be greatly exaggerated — as American writer Mark Twain once observed about premature reports of his death. The same could be true for the CAP, an intricate web of subsidies and farm support measures.

For 3-1/2 years the United States and more than a dozen other exporters of farm products, including Australia, Canada, Brazil and Argentina, have demanded at the Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations that the CAP be fundamentally altered.

Next week in Geneva they are expected to go on the offensive again when trade negotiators meet to try to draft the first text of a final agreement to reform farm support.

"With relentless pressure, the American message has been that export subsidies must be eliminated. Others have denounced the CAP as a massive rip-off, expensive, out of control, harmful to the interests of developing countries," said Ray MacSharry, the EC farm commissioner in a speech in Dublin on Thursday.

The community, forced into a defensive crouch, has poured enormous energy into parrying this assault. But it has not yet steered itself to make the "substantial and progressive" cuts in farm support all sides have already agreed in the Uruguay round.

US Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yentler cautioned on Wednesday that, if the EC did not agree to broadening its negotiating position, the 105-nation Uruguay Round talks covering 15 sectors of trade, could collapse.

But as late as Friday there was no hint in Brussels that the Community would yield. The Uruguay Round, begun in September, 1986, in the Uruguayan resort of Punta del Este under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, is due to end in December and time is running out for the negotiators.

The EC's tenacious attachment to the CAP is partly a result of the food shortages of World War Two, still remembered by an older generation of Europeans.

But it is mainly rooted in pride that the CAP was the first truly common policy agreed by the Community. MacSharry, in a passionate defence of the CAP on Thursday, paid tribute to those who conceived it 30 years ago this June.

"It is the political and economic cement which holds together the different parts of the Community," he said.

By all accounts the first 15 years of the CAP were a smashing success. Its high internal subsidies transformed food shortages to plenty and helped preserve a rural way of life precious to many Europeans.

It was only in the 1970s that the CAP started to come under attack from outside, as surpluses were sold on world markets at subsidised prices and imports blocked by high tariff walls. From inside, intensive farming was criticised for damaging the environment and wasting public money.

The Uruguay Round negotiations were forced on Brussels in 1986 just as the Community was itself starting to reform the CAP. Milk production quotas were agreed, and for the first time in 1988 farmers were told they would not automatically get handouts of grain, oilseed and sugar production was excessive.

MacSharry says cereals prices have been reduced 10 per cent in the last three years and livestock by 15 per cent.

EEC tells UK, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands

'Stop aid to industry'

BRUSSELS, July 20, (Reuters): The European Economic Commission yesterday told Italy, Belgium, Britain and the Netherlands to scrap long-standing subsidies to industry by the end of 1990.

In his first attack on existing schemes to help business, Competition Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan signalled he was adding old aid to a campaign already under way against European Economic Community members' plans for new support.

Brittan argues that govern-

ment help to industry is a major obstacle to competition in the community's single, barrier-free market, which is due to be in place after 1992.

"State aids will soon be one of the only means of protectionism left to a member state in intra-community trade," a Commission statement said on Thursday.

A Commission spokesman said the industrial aid programmes of the four countries had been singled out because they offered money to industry in general and so reduced the impact of

aids targeted at specific sectors or regions.

"Where governments can give aid to any company, anywhere in the member state, then this decreases the value of regional aid, for example, because it means the aid given in the region is relatively less significant," the spokesman said.

The Commission has already acted on some aspects of the schemes.

The Commission last month ruled these aids were illegal and ordered them to be repaid.

Ex-Citibank VP sentenced for \$25m theft

NEW YORK, July 20, (AP): A judge gave an eight-year prison sentence to a former bank vice-president convicted of carrying out a "James Bond scenario" to steal securities worth \$25 million from a vault.

US District Judge Robert Ward imposed the sentence yesterday on Mario Rios Pinochet, whose job at Citibank was to safeguard bank assets.

"There is no question that his position allowed him to commit the crime," Ward said.

Four of the five stolen \$5-million cer-

tificates stolen were recovered when Pinochet tried to negotiate them three days after the Jan 25 theft, prosecutors said.

The fifth certificate, which matured in February, was never recovered.

Pinochet, 48, of Connecticut, claims to be a distant relative of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

He was convicted in May by a Manhattan Federal Court jury of four felony counts stemming from the embezzlement.

Pinochet was fired by Citibank after his Feb

1 arrest. He maintains his innocence and plans an appeal.

Ward's sentence of eight years fell in the middle range of the punishment, allowed by federal sentencing guidelines. The judge said he considered the seriousness of the charges and Pinochet's lack of remorse.

Pinochet was a vice-president in charge of a risk management team that investigated discrepancies in the handling of multi-million-dollar securities held by Citibank.

Japanese market open but more to do

TOKYO, July 20, (Reuters): French businessmen today told their prime minister the Japanese market was more open than it used to be but more must be done on both sides to reduce France's huge trade deficit with Japan.

Representatives from 30 companies met Michel Rocard on the top floor of a luxury hotel to brief him on the pleasures and pitfalls of trying to sell to the world's second biggest market.

Rocard arrived yesterday for a three-day visit aimed at cutting the deficit, attracting more Japanese investment to France and increasing co-operation in science and technology.

Greet

After meeting Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu yesterday, he talked with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Minister for International Trade and Industry Kibun Muto today and will greet leaders of industry tomorrow.

"The market is much more open than three years ago," said one businessman emerging from the meeting. "But difficulties remain, such as standards, habits and the local level of the yen. Japan must make more reforms and we must work harder."

Turnover

Emmanuel Prat, president of the Japanese unit of luxury-goods maker LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton was one of the happiest participants. A total of 21 per cent of his company's turnover is exported to Japan and 30 per cent sold to Japanese customers.

"This will be a major market for us over the next 10 years with a very big potential. But, for French companies, it depends what sector you are in. Those selling technology face fiercer competition," he said.

French figures show industrial products accounted for only 16 per cent of exports to Japan last year that totalled 21 billion francs (\$3.78 billion), against imports of 50.24 billion francs (\$9 billion), leaving a deficit of \$5.22 billion, up from 4.96 billion in 1988.

Goods

Consumer goods accounted for 38.4 per cent of French exports in 1989; food products, 16.3 per cent, and cars, 5.2 per cent.

Peugeot sold 4,586 vehicles to Japan last year and aims to reach 8,000 this year and 20,000 by 1993, Henri Perier, general manager of its Japanese marketing division, said.

"We are putting a great effort into developing this market, the second biggest auto market in the world and very dynamic," he said.

"Japanese buy foreign cars because of their style, prestige and sporting image. We have much to do," he said.

Michel Brillet, president of the Japanese unit of Citroen, a unit of Peugeot, said his biggest headaches were distribution and finding French-speaking technicians.

French trade deficit narrows

PARIS, July 20, (Kuna): France's foreign trade deficit in June narrowed to 1.026 billion francs from 5.54 billion (\$1 billion) in May, according to seasonally adjusted figures just released here by the customs service at the Foreign Trade Ministry.

Exports in June rose to 98.72 billion francs from 97.24 billion while imports declined to 99.74 billion from 102.79 billion.

For the first half of 1990, deficit is standing at 13.44 billion francs (\$2.44 billion) compared with 18.58 billion for the same period in 1989.

In June, deficit in the industrial sector was reduced by nearly 50 per cent from 7.036 billion to 3.59 billion francs, and that in the energy sector fell from 7.08 billion to 6.21 billion francs.

Business

Cap Gemini to buy Hoskyns: France's Cap Gemini Sogeti, the largest computer services group in Europe, said on Wednesday it will take a majority stake in Hoskyns Group Plc of Britain for £199 million (\$360 million).

It was the Paris-based group's second big expansion move this week.

On Monday it said it was paying £39 million (\$68 million) for the West German operations of British computer group SD-Scicon Plc.

Industry analysts said the Hoskyns acquisition will give Cap Gemini a dominant position in supplying software and professional computer advisory services in Britain, the one market where it lacked a significant presence.

Romania modernises ageing fleet: Romania took the first steps towards replacing its fleet of ageing Soviet long-haul aircraft on Thursday, pledging to buy three Airbus A310-300s from the European Airbus consortium.

The deal, worth a total of \$250 million, was signed by executives of the national airline Tarom and the four-nation consortium in the southern French town of Toulouse, where Airbus is based, Romanian officials said.

Under the agreement Tarom also has an option to buy two extra A310-300s, and the contract includes a maintenance and spare parts deal worth \$25 million.

The first three aircraft will be delivered in March and May, 1992, and in February, 1993.

French airline staff strike: Air Inter, the French domestic carrier, cancelled Friday 25 per cent of its flights and will do the same on Saturday due to a 48-hour strike by pilots, navigators and ground staff demanding more pay.

The fourth strike by airline staff and the second by Air Inter staff since the beginning of July will disrupt only the domestic service.

Ferranti turns in £161m loss: Ferranti International Signal Plc, one of Britain's largest defence manufacturers, said Thursday it had made a loss in the year to March 31, 1990, after modest profits for the same period the previous year.

The final year loss before tax was £161.7 million (\$293.8 million) compared to profits of £13.1 million (\$23.8 million) last year.

Revenues for the period slipped to £794.9 million (\$1.44 billion) from £927.5 million (\$1.69 billion) a year ago.

Analysts said they believed the reverse was mainly attributable to huge losses Ferranti incurred in connection with contract fraud stemming from its purchase of American company, International Signal and Control Group Plc in 1987.

High UK interest rates also took their toll on the company's profits, they said.

Argentina privatises: Adding to an already ambitious programme of privatisations, the government of Argentina plans to sell or lease nuclear and hydroelectric plants, and partially deregulate the air travel industry.

The president will send to congress legislation to make the Atucha 1 and Embalse Nuclear Plants "subject to privatisation," along with the massive Yacretá Dam, which when completed will be the seventh most powerful in the world.

The Buenos Aires Power Company, which provides electricity for this metropolitan capital of 12 million inhabitants, also would be sold, if congress agrees.

UK urges pay restraints as unemployment rises

LONDON, July 20, (Reuters): The British government urged workers yesterday to hold down pay demands as unemployment rose slightly for the third straight month.

The number of people out of work in June increased by 5,600 to 1,311,500, provisionally adjusted 1.62 million or 5.7 per cent of the workforce, unchanged from May's revised percentage, the Department of Employment said.

At the same time, there was a slackening in the pace of wage rises. Average earnings in the year to May rose by 9.75 per cent, unchanged from the previous month's figure.

The rate of wage increase in May mirrored

Britain's latest annual inflation rate, which stood at 9.8 per cent in June.

Employment Secretary Michael Howard said further progress in creating more jobs and cutting unemployment depended on "realistic" wage settlements.

"More than ever before wage bargainers need to think of the future," he said. "Jobs will not survive unless pay settlements take account of the long-term competitive position of individual firms and the general economic climate."

The government has made the fight against inflation its main economic priority and is worried that

high pay increases will undermine its efforts to restrain the rise in the cost of living.

Howard said that, although the rate of job creation was slowing down, the number of people in work stood at a record 27.2 million.

Opposition Labour Party employment spokesman Tony Blair said: "The figures have now destroyed any remaining vestiges of the government's credibility and the unemployed are now being told to pay the price of the appalling economic errors of the government."

Until unemployment started to rise in April, it had fallen for 44 consecutive months.

Boards

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)			
July 19, '90.			
ACC	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	810	810	810
Alcon Chem	—	—	—
Alcon Ind	—	—	—
Adi Fab	—	—	—
Ashtok Ley	85	84	84
Asia Paint	240	242.50	243
Chop	145	145	145
Auto Corp	70	67.50	70
Nat Ind	482.82	—	489.01
Bajaj Auto	517.50	517.50	522.50
Bar Rapon	1105	1100	1095
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	254	258	254
BK Road	116	116	117
Bur Wid	70	67.50	70
Canshore	—	—	—
Can Enka	4275	4375	4325
Can Eng	3825	3850	4000
Colgate	221.50	220	220
Crompt Gr	1050	1050	1050
DCM	32.50	32	33.50
Deep Fert	29.75	29.50	29.50
Deep Ind	65	62.50	65
El Hotels	59	57	53
Escorts	107.50	110	108
ESSE Indes	146.52	152.50	147.50
Bakay	40.50	41.25	41.50
Essar Spg	152.50	152.50	153.75
Food Sil	37.50	37	38.50
Glindia	107	107	105
GNFC	39.50	40	40
Green	147	148	150
GE Ship	44	43.50	43
GSCF	218.75	222.50	225
Guj Alid	15.50	15	15.50
Guj Heavy	37	36.50	37
Hero Honda	37	36.50	37
Hind Ciba	1550	1540	1560
Hind Lever	120	120	121.50
Hind Coca	173.75	175	176.25
Hind Motor	45.50	47	46
Hindalco	310	315	312.50
Hoechst	2460	2470	2540
Ingersoll	245	245	250
ITC	93	94	95
Ind Org	63	63	62.75
Ind Rayon	126.50	127.50	126
Indrol	258.75	261.25	260
JK Syn	70.50	71	71.50
Kin Rang	166.25	167.50	165
Kir Cor	78	79	79
KSB Pumps	197.50	190	200
L & T	96.50	97	96
Lipton	83.50	84	85
Mad Rased	90	89	92
Mad Casts	130	125	130
Malhindra	90	91.25	92.50
Mar Share	22.75	25	24.50
Maruti	970	970	980
Millford	180	175	180
Modi	81	79	84
MRF Ltd	220	260	270
Muk Pom	146	145	140
Nocel	1380	1410	1360
Nat Org	36	38	41
Nippon	36	38	41
Ochay	26	27.50	26
Oswal Agro	40	34	36
Petro	89.50	90	90
Pfizer	252.50	251.25	255
Ponds	70.50	72	70
Prem Auto	98	96.25	99
Ramkrish	89	89	90
Ray Wool	237.50	245	240

Madonna voice is in grave danger

Hollywood's 'voice doctor' warns

UNLESS Madonna does special "voice work-outs", like those that taught Sean Connery to speak again, her rocketing career could be in grave danger, says a beautiful blonde Hollywood doctor.

Already the raunchy star, currently basking in rave reviews for her part as Breathless Mahoney in the movie *Dick Tracy*, has had to cancel two concerts because of throat problems.

And now, as Madonna is being tipped for the lead in the movie version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita*, it is vital that her voice doesn't let her down.

But Beverly Hills expert Dr Lillian Glass says the blonde star is in dire danger of suffering from the singer's greatest curse — nodules growing on the vocal cords. This would silence her and need throat surgery.

And the doctor believes it is essential that Madonna rests her voice now.

Sean Connery developed nodules and had an operation. But 35-year-old Dr Glass taught him to use his voice so that he could make *The Hunt For Red October*. Other clients include Dolly Parton, Rob Lowe and deaf actress Marilee Martin.

Dr Glass, an ex-beauty queen and former university professor, says Madonna badly needs speech therapy before voice problems wreck her career. And she gives the same expert advice she does to all the stars who beat a path to her discreet office.

She told me: "Madonna and other singers — particularly those that haven't had their voices trained — need therapy to build new and permanent good habits. Without this, they run the risk of nodules."

Dr Glass, a former Miss Miami, believes Madonna needs to learn to speak as well as sing again. She said, in an office lined with autographed pictures of grateful celebrity patients: "Madonna must go back to basics and learn how to co-ordinate her breathing when she speaks. Singing is just the last straw for her vocal cords."

"If you don't know how to use these cords properly when you are speaking, it really causes irritation."

Madonna has been working like a pop machine on her *Blonde Ambition* World-Tour. She has been touring the United States and Japan since mid-April and was rehearsing for months before that. The British leg this month was sold out within days of seats at the giant Wembley stadium going on sale.

Fans who found all the booking hotlines jammed within minutes, actually jumped on trains to London to join the ticket queue.

But Madonna had to cancel a sell-out concert in Massachusetts two weeks after having to miss one in Chicago because of throat problems. And fans began to fear that the Wembley shows might not go ahead.

Said a spokesman for Madonna's record company: "Her vocal cords are giving some trouble. The shows require a gruelling amount of work every night."

"Madonna has been told to slow down to give her body a chance to recover. She has been sipping tea and generally taking it easy."

That is a good start, according to Dr Glass. But it won't, in the end, be enough. For one thing, Madonna should stop singing and even talking at once.

Dr Glass, who describes her therapy methods in a best-seller



Dr Lillian Glass with deaf actress Marlee Matlin and Marlee's interpreter Jack Jason.



Dolly Parton went to Dr Glass after losing her voice because of throat nodules.



Dr Glass has given actor Sean Connery a new voice.

October. He said, "Dr Glass, what you did was wonderful! It's really saved my voice."

Another patient, Dolly Parton, did not go until she, too, had nodules. These show up as small white spots on the vocal cords. The doctor said: "Dolly had a lot of problems. One of them was that she wrongly used a lot of her upper chest when she breathed."

Dr Glass also works with accents and other acting challenges to their voices.

She helped Rob Lowe with the film, *Square Dance*, in which he had to sound like a retarded man from west Texas. He won a Golden Globe for that performance. And she worked with him in *Bad Influence*, in which he had to be a psychopath with both Spanish and French accents.

Dr Glass said she felt the greater sense of satisfaction when she worked with deaf actress Marilee Matlin to master full speaking roles.

The doctor recalled, "We worked every day, just drilling her facial, vocal and tongue muscles. It was like watching a baby grow. Anyone who did what she did in so short a time is a genius."

"It was the highlight of my life to make such a difference to someone else's life."

Madonna's failing voice is not her only problem as she sings and dances her way through the killing tour schedule. Even her hairdresser has warned of trouble ahead.

If the singer star keeps bleaching her hair, she was told, it will start breaking off. Currently, Madonna is still making with the bleach.

And a doctor says her exercise regime could have tragic effects on her, later in life. Madonna, who sells nearly a million records a week round the world and topped the charts in 18 countries with her last album, went into training to get her body fit for her current tour.

With Beverly Hills fitness trainer, Jake Steinfield, whom she calls her "butt, thighs and gut man" she did a daily workout that toned her body and reduced her weight by 9lb in three months.

A chef and diet-master travels with her, providing her with vegan food. This consists of meals made without meat or any other animal products and designed to keep Madonna's energy levels high.

And while Madonna is touring, she has been working out as many as three times a day. In Japan, when rain stopped her jogging, she ran up the stairs of a 32-storey hotel twice.

But Dr Henry Solomon, author of *The Exercise Myth*, warns that Madonna may be storing up trouble for her body. He says that, apart from arthritis and varicose veins, the star is risking hormone problems too. She may find that she cannot have a baby.

Dr Solomon claims: "The latest evidence shows that some women can permanently impair their fertility with a very high level of activity."

But Madonna insists exercise gives her a buzz. And her gruelling exercise programme is certainly keeping her rib-displaying skinny.

As she acts, sings and dances to success Madonna ignores the warnings of Dr Solomon and her hairdresser. But it could well be vital to her career to listen to the advice of Hollywood's beautiful "voice doctor." Before it is too late.

Dutch passion players reenact Crucifixion

TEGELN, Netherlands, (Reuter): Every Sunday a 33-year-old Dutch insurance broker is crucified before an audience of thousands.

Hans Vorstermans is starring in the Tegelen Passion Play, a reenactment of Christ's betrayal and death staged every five years by the residents of this southern Dutch town.

Though a more modest affair than the world-famous Oberammergau passion play, showing this summer to packed houses in West Germany, more than 40,000 spectators are expected at the Tegelen show before it ends in September.

With a cast of 350, from babies in arms to 80-year-old grandparents, most families in Tegelen are involved in the play either on or off stage.

Vorstermans and his co-stars have devoted all their free time in the last 18 months to rehearsing their roles.

"I understand Jesus better now. I no longer see him as a mystic but as an ordinary man," the blond and bearded Vorstermans told Reuters in an interview.

In the final scene he is strung up on a three metre nine feet) wooden cross, blood apparently dripping from his pierced hands and feet.

"Hanging on the cross is quite something. When they bring me down, my arms feel dead," said Vorstermans after his first performance last month.

Passion plays are put on by Catholic communities all over the world.

The Oberammergau spectacle is staged once a decade in a mountain village in Bavaria to keep a row made by locals who survived a plague in 1633.

In Tegelen, a sleepy town in the Netherlands' predominantly Catholic province of Limburg, the tradition dates only from 1931.

"People wanted to do something to popularise the story of Christ, especially the passion because that's the nucleus of our faith," said Wim Beurskens, a 37-year-old doctor who heads the play's organising committee.

"Right from the start there was so much interest in participating that built a special open air theatre for it," Beurskens told Reuters.

In its heyday in the 1950s the Tegelen play drew 100,000 spectators each season. Numbers dwindled over the next two decades but interest has revived in recent years, Beurskens said.

This year the organisers are expecting few empty places in the 3,500-seat theatre for the three-hour Sunday afternoon performances, which opened on June 17 and will run until September 30.

Spectators, most of dressed in their Sunday best, follow the play intently with the help of an annotated script, which explains archaic Dutch terms and provides historical background to the story.

Backstage the mood is more relaxed. A group of Roman soldiers enjoy a game of cards between scenes and families, clad in early Christian robes, sit around wooden tables munching sandwiches and drinking beer.

Under a tree a donkey waits patiently to carry Jesus into Jerusalem, while the younger members of the cast amuse themselves in a sandpit.

Although all the actors are amateurs, about three-quarters of them are veteran passion players.

Contemporary horror is truly horrible, says Raven's star

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Vincent Price, veteran of dozens of classic horror films, says the horror of contemporary horror movies is that they are truly horrible.

He shakes his head in bewildered chagrin at the series of "Nightmare on Elm Streets," "Friday the 13th" and "Halloween."

"With all their blood and violence, slasher pictures are a different genre from the wonderful Edgar Allen Poe films we used to make for Roger Corman," Price said, relaxing in his hilltop home above the Sunset Strip.

"Poe was brilliantly subtle and Corman understood that the less violence depicted the more audience imagination took over, making the terror much greater."

Price was in a mood to discuss his films. He was the subject of a Los Angeles cinematic retrospective of his movies, "A Weekend With Vincent Price" at the Directors Guild Theatre (July 13-15) where 10 of his 115 pictures were screened.

Price, moreover, was on hand to discuss his work and answer questions from the audience after the screenings.

Among the offerings: *Laura* with Gene Tierney and Dana Andrews, *Dragonwyck*,

his first Gothic drama, with Joseph L. Mankiewicz making his directorial debut, the comedy *Champagne for Caesar* with Ronald Colman, and *House of Wax*, which launched price into horror pictures.

The Tingler also will be shown. It was one of his most bizarre films. Director William Castle planned to wire theatres seats with low-voltage current sending genuine tingles up the spines of audiences. It didn't work.

"I haven't seen some of those films in years," Price said. "I helped choose the pictures for the retrospective to make it representative of my work. I didn't want it to be all one kind of picture."

"I tried to find a print of *The Raven*, which was one of Jack Nicholson's first picture, but I couldn't get my hands on it."

"Not included is my own first film in 1938, *Service Deluxe*, with a wonderful cast of Charlie Ruggles, Constance Bennett, Helen Broderick and Mischa Auer."

"In the past 52 years I've worked with a great many of the giants of Hollywood — and some of the midgets. Most of the films were wonderful and some of them were not so good."

"I often worked with a group of character actors of star quality — Boris Karloff, Peter Lorre, John Carradine, Basil Rath-

bone, Sidney Greenstreet and others.

"I'll never forget when Carradine and I worked together for the last time in England. Someone commented that I had made a lot of pictures. I said, yes, more than a hundred." Carradine said, "I've done 450."

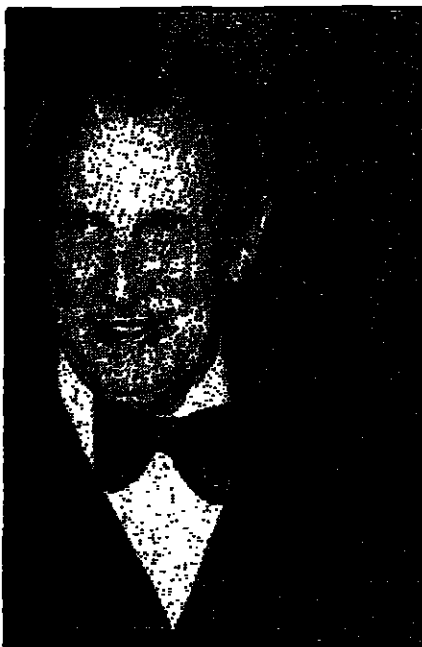
"All of us were brought here for talks from the stage because we enunciated so clearly. Then Marlon Brando arrived with his mumbles and changed everything. The only way to survive was to go into costume pictures and thrillers."

"In period pictures it was all right to have the dialogue understood. Other performers who acted in bravura style had to leave the business altogether. Many did retire at that time."

"Most of the survivors became character actors, who have a longer career span than leading men anyway."

Price, tall, slender and elegant, his gray hair swept up in a wave, is still working. His most recent film is *Edward Scissorhands*, a fairy tale directed by Tim Burton, who did *Batman* last year.

"I play a good guy in this one," Price said. "But when I give lectures on tour I'm most often asked how I feel about being type-cast as a villain or in horror films. My answer is simple, all actors are type-cast."



American horror film star Vincent Price, best known for his roles in "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Raven," says slasher pictures are now a different genre.

"The surest way to attain stardom is type casting. John Wayne and Gary Cooper were both type-cast as themselves. Even Brando eventually played Brando in all his pictures. Unless you have that sort of identification, you don't have an audience — or a career."

"Ronnie Colman was debonair and played every role exactly the same way. Cary Grant was always the best actor in the business because he played himself so superbly."

Your Health

Tuberculosis surge prompts testing recommendation

By Charles S. Taylor

ATLANTA, (UPI): After years of decline, tuberculosis is surging again in the United States, causing federal health officials to call for wider testing among people at high risk of infection.

For decades prior to the mid-1980s, numbers of new tuberculosis (TB) cases steadily declined, thanks to control measures that included better ways of detecting the bacterium that causes the disease and anti-TB drugs.

Between 1981 and 1984, the number of new cases reported to the Federal Centers for Diseases Control declined at an average annual rate of 6.7 per cent. Then, the decline leveled off. In 1988, the last year for which data is available, reported cases nationwide totaled 22,436 — a figure higher than the CDC would otherwise have expected.

"If the 6.7 per cent average annual decline between 1981 and 1984 had continued through 1988, an estimated 14,768 fewer cases would have been expected during 1985-1988," CDC officials said in a recent report on the problem.

To combat the comeback of what was once called the "Last Great Plague," and to try to achieve the federal goal of eliminating TB in the United States by 2010 — a CDC advisory committee is recommending routine testing of people who fall into seven high risk categories.

The committee said in its report that those who should be tested include people infected with the Aids virus, anyone with a medical condition that would increase the risk of getting TB, anyone who has close contact with a person known or suspected to have TB, people born in countries with high TB rates and members of medically underserved low-income populations.

Other high risk groups that merit testing are

alcoholics and intravenous drug users and residents of long-term care facilities, mental institutions, nursing homes and prisons, the committee said.

The standard method of identifying people infected with the airborne bacterium that causes the disease is a skin test. Other methods involve chest X-ray and sputum smears.

Officials say broad-based testing is crucial in the fight against TB because the unusual nature of disease means that many people who harbour the "tubercle bacillus" that causes it are unaware that they are infected. In most cases, the infection stays dormant and only becomes an active disease when a person becomes infirm or elderly or develops another disease that activates the bacterium.

The CDC said the Aids epidemic has helped spur the TB resurgence because by destroying a person's immune system, the Aids virus opens the door to the TB bacillus and to active disease. The agency said immigration of TB-infected persons also has contributed to the problem.

In its active state, tuberculosis causes lesions in the lungs and can also affect other parts of the body, including the lymph glands, brain, heart and the skeletal system.

Worldwide, there are an estimated eight million cases each year and three million deaths. In the United States, the CDC estimates that the annual TB death toll is about 1,800.

Federal officials believe there may be 10 to 15 million people in the United States with latent TB infection that has not progressed into active disease. Most infected individuals are free of symptoms and do not spread the disease to others, officials said.

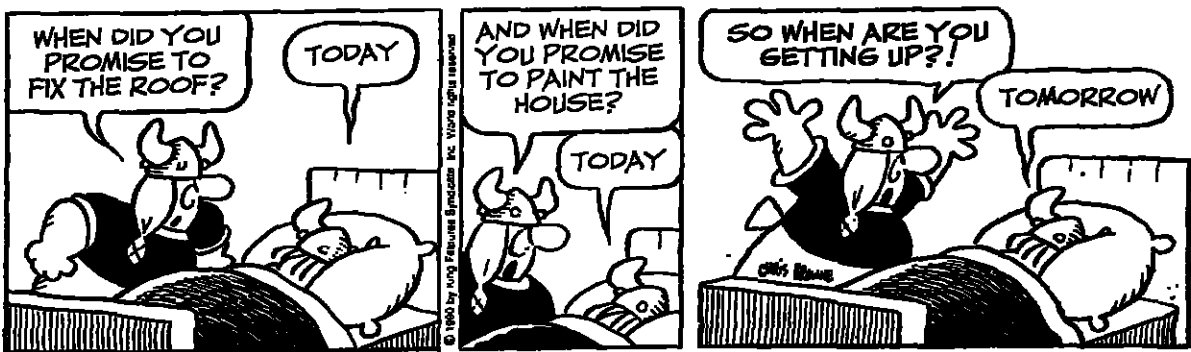
The CDC said the number of new TB cases reported annually reflects only partially the public health burden of the disease.

LEISURE

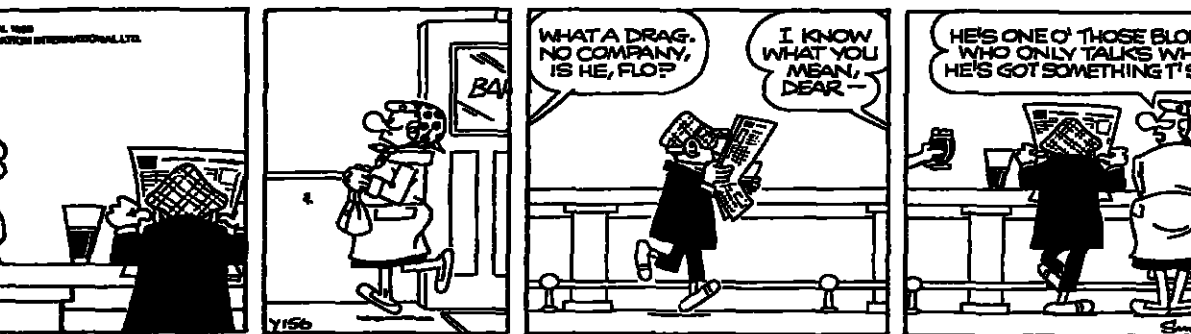
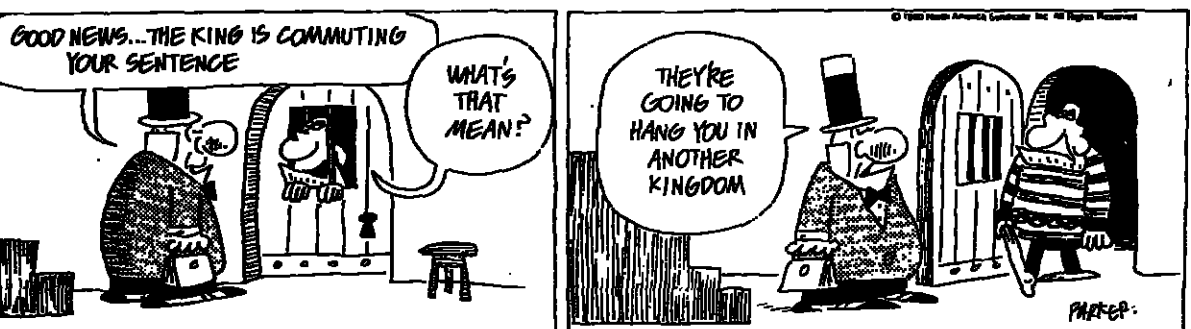
BLONDIE by Dean Young & Steve Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Bill Brown



AGATHA CRUM by John Doe



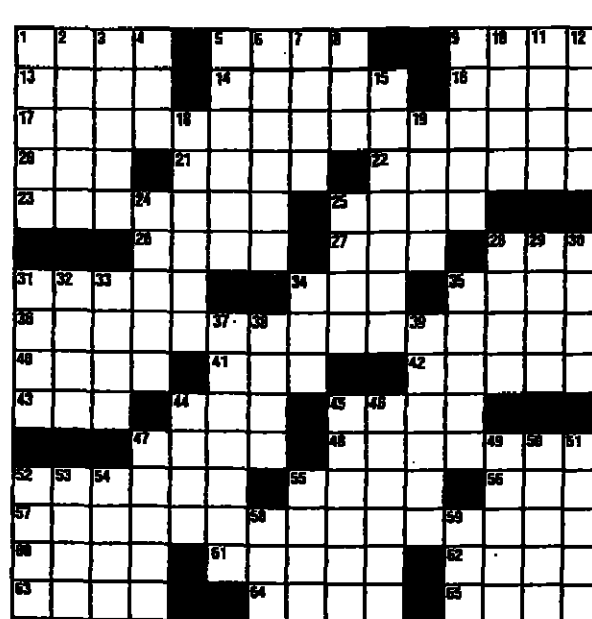
E.C. by John Doe



HE-MAN by G. Forten & J. Shul



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Fine spray
 - 5 Variety of chalcid
 - 9 An aardvark's diet
 - 13 European capital
 - 14 Buckeye and breadfruit
 - 16 Plumbing problem
 - 17 New York landmark
 - 20 Benevolent society member
 - 21 In addition to
 - 22 Sad
 - 23 Is agitated
 - 25 Pinball machine word
 - 26 Caroline's older daughter
 - 27 — North Church, Boston
 - 28 Idle talk
 - 31 Indian language
 - 34 In the manner of
 - 35 Violinist
 - 36 Berlin landmark
 - 40 Opposed
 - 41 Extinct bird
 - 42 Abhors
 - 43 Fish eggs
 - 44 Atmosphere: Prefix
 - 45 Throat-clearing sound
 - 47 Site of an Indian landmark
 - 48 Fit for drinking
 - 52 Flier Earhart
 - 55 Sediment
 - 56 Part of R and R
 - 57 Washington landmark
 - 60 M*A*S*H actor
 - 61 Tie, in tennis
 - 62 Writer Ferber
- DOWN**
- 1 Artist
 - 2 Basket fiber
 - 3 Quench
 - 4 Nursery occupant
 - 5 Stone markers
 - 6 Provoke
 - 7 NBA
 - 8 Peacekeepers
 - 9 Warm
 - 10 Pianist Peter
 - 11 Makes loops and knots
 - 12 Kind of terrier
 - 15 Alike
 - 18 Support
 - 19 Intrepid
 - 24 Singer Lopez
 - 25 — balsam
 - 28 Two-winged fly
 - 29 Pay over, with "up"
 - 30 Nectar collectors
 - 31 Way to the top
 - 32 River of Tuscany
 - 33 Husband or wife
 - 34 Camel's hair fabric
 - 35 Lizard of many colors
 - 37 Bright green
 - 38 Ibsen character
 - 39 Urban area
 - 44 Exchange premium
 - 45 For each
 - 48 Supreme court justice: 1902-32
 - 47 Highway to Alaska, formerly
 - 49 Wedding principal
 - 50 Gravitates
 - 51 Fanfare
 - 52 How sad!
 - 53 Actor O'Shea
 - 54 Conductor
 - 55 Sooty matter
 - 58 Wedding
 - 59 Confederate soldier, for short

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PECK FAILS WIT
ORIAN ASCOT IONA
PIGEONHOLE CLIP
SNEER NAE EFTS
SAUL DALL
HIC LOOPS MATT
ACH TOOT INDIA
RAINCATSANDOGS
EMCEE ESNE WET
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MANI ERA PARTS
OBOE HORSESHOES
SLUR RAISE HUNT
TET UNDER SETS

COREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES COREN AND OMAR SHARIF

HANGING IN THERE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♠ Q 10 9 7

♥ J 10 9 7 2

♦ 8 4

♣ J 3

EAST

♠ A J 3

♥ 8 6 4

♦ A 10

♣ 10 9 7 5 4

SOUTH

♠ 2

♥ A Q 3

♦ K Q J 7 6 3

♣ A 8 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

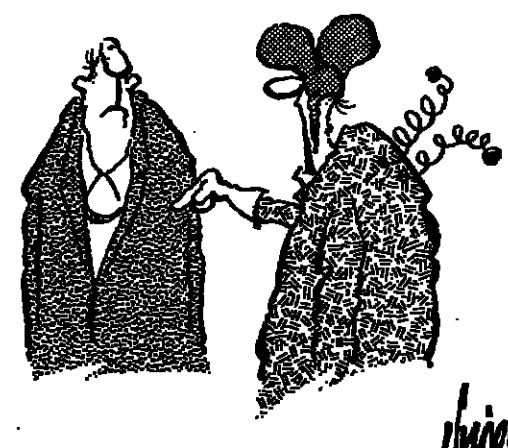
Yesterday we discussed control of a hand from declarer's point of view. There are situations where it's vital for the defenders to keep charge of the trump suit. Consider this example.

East was somewhat pusillanimous to let the bidding die in three diamonds. With two aces, three-card trump support and a ruffing value, it was unlikely that a nine-trick contract would be punished even if West had a minimum one-

level overall. Nine tricks could have been made on several lines.

Against three diamonds, West made the normal lead of the fourth-best spade, and dummy's nine lost to East's jack. In an attempt to prevent declarer from ruffing clubs in dummy, East shifted to the ace of diamonds and another. A grateful declarer won, drew the outstanding trump and then banged out the ace and queen of hearts. When that fetched the king, declarer was able to discard two losing clubs on dummy's hearts, making his contract with an overtrick.

East's analysis was correct. Without a trump shift, declarer would have been able to ruff a club in dummy for his ninth trick. However, he switched to the wrong trump! Note what would have happened had East led the ten of trumps at trick two! If declarer tries for a club ruff by leading a low club, the defenders can win and draw dummy's remaining fang before the hearts are established. A club continuation then ensures that the defenders net a spade trick, a heart, a diamond and two clubs. If South sets up the hearts first, West can get a heart ruff for the setting trick. And if declarer draws trumps, the defenders win the second round and go after clubs. Always down one.



And I knew there was life on this planet."



Aries March 21 - April 20

You are liable to make a serious mistake so watch out. Do not spend so much that it will be a worry to you. You will find it hard to get down to what has to be done, but do make the effort. Be abstemious.



Cancer June 21 - July 20

Do not undertake delicate repairs unless you really know what you are doing. And do not pretend to know more than you actually do. Indeed it will do you credit to say you do not know where you do not. Be trustworthy.



Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22

You should keep your wits very much about you. Instead of trying to be someone else seek to be more yourself. A problem that has been dogging you will now be nearer to a solution, but a special effort is needed. Be helpful.



Capricorn Dec 21 - Jan 19

If you rely on good luck to get you out of trouble you really are in trouble. Make sure you sit comfortably and also make sure you get regular and none too violent exercise. Take a little better care of your health. Be generous.



Taurus April 21 - May 20

Nothing will appear to be going right today. Do not despair it will all fall into place in due course. However, nothing will come without effort, and you should work steadily without allowing yourself to be distracted. Be polite.



Leo July 21 - Aug 21

You are liable to jump to conclusions and should do your best to take remedial action. Do not make up your mind on the spur of the moment, but once you have done so, stick to it. Do something that will please your partner. Be sincere.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Being sorry for yourself will get you nowhere, so try to cheer yourself up. Rest assured that not everything is against you even though it might at times appear to be the case. Your lucky numbers are 18 and 33.



Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 19

Something you had not expected to happen will but it will not be nearly as bad as it could well have been. Others will try to deceive you and you should keep your eyes and ears wide open. Also do not allow yourself to believe that what you would like to be is. Be tactful.



Gemini May 21 - June 20

You will have a lot to do, just get on with it without becoming flustered by what still remains to be done. Whilst you cannot say you need not have worried you can say you need not worry any longer about a particular possibility.



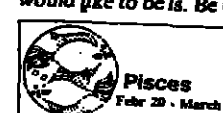
Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22

This will not be your lucky day except in the sense that the worst that could have happened will not. You should make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Listen carefully to what others have to say. Be loyal.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 20

Something you have learnt recently will stand you in extremely good stead. Indeed it will help you to avoid what would have been a severe pitfall. However do not think there is no more to learn. Be tolerant.



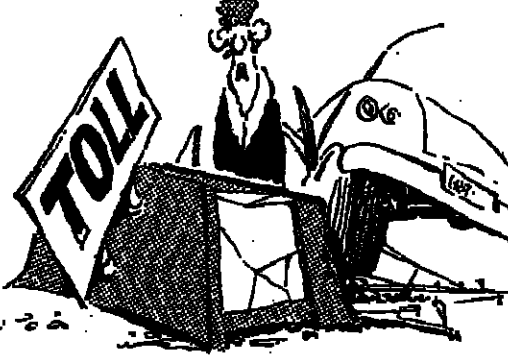
Pisces Feb 20 - March 20

You will be able to do something you always enjoy doing, but you should not neglect what you know has to be done. There is room for a little more optimism, but none for complacency.

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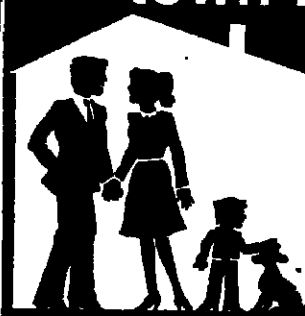
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Blake edges Nehemiah in 110m hurdles

Algerian runs year's best 1,500m



Harris raises his arm in victory (Reuter wirephoto)

BLOGNA, Italy, July 20, (AP): Algerian Noureddine Morceli set the world's best performance of the year in the men's 1,500-metre Wednesday at the "Golden Gala" track and field meet.

Morceli was clocked in 3:32.60 minutes, was 3.14 seconds off the world mark set by Said Aouita of Morocco in 1985.

Morceli outspurred Herve Phelippeau of France and Denmark's Morgens Guldberg, who finished in 3:33.54 and 3:35.56 respectively.

American Danny Harris failed in his bid to succeed Edwin Moses in the record books as he clocked 48.40 seconds in the 400-metre hurdles.

Harris, who claims he will improve Moses' world record of 47.02 seconds by the end of this season, slowed down his pace in the last 20 metres. He crossed the finish line with a raised arm, apparently postponing a record attempt until the Goodwill Games, which were to begin today in Seattle.

American Nat Page was timed in 48.93 seconds for second place.

US athletes swept the top five places in the 110-metre hurdles, as Arthur Blake edged veteran Reinaldo Nehemiah in 13.34

seconds.

Italy's Salvatore Antibo clocked the fifth fastest all-time world performance in the 5,000 metres.

Antibo, who had failed in a world record attempt in the 10,000 metres at the Bislett Games in Oslo last week, was timed in 13:05.59 minutes.

It was a new Italian record, nearly five seconds faster than Alberto Cova, whose mark dated back to 1985.

Nigerian sprinter Olapade Adeniken continued his unbeaten streak as he edged American Calvin Smith and Dennis Mitchell in the men's 100-metre dash.

Adeniken, who had beaten Olympic silver medalist Linford Christie in Belfast earlier this week, was timed in 10.32 seconds.

Smith placed second in the same time as the winner while Mitchell had 10.38 seconds.

Canadian sprinter Althea Mahorn edged American Thomas Jefferson, in 10.41 seconds, in another 100-metre series.

Jamaican Grace Jackson took the women's 200-metre race in 22.62 seconds, ahead of Pauline Davis of Bahamas and East Germany's Silke Gladisch-Moeller, next month.

the 1987 world champion.

Australian Sue Howland won the women's javelin with a throw of 64.12 metres while East Germany's Cornelia Oschkenat won the 100-metre hurdles, in 13.01 seconds, ahead of former world record holder Ginka Zagorcheva of Bulgaria.

Fiona May of Britain won the women's long jump with 6.88 metres. American Carol Lewis came in second at 6.43 metres, ahead of fellow American Jennifer Innis, who had 6.37.

The meet is the 13th leg of the 1990 IAAF Mobil Grand Prix circuit. The next leg of the circuit will be the Royal Mail Games in London next Friday.

Steve Cram, the world mile record holder, said on Wednesday he would not run in the Goodwill Games in Seattle next week because of continuing injury problems.

"I haven't fully recovered from the recent injury and I'm not fit enough to race on Monday," the Briton said.

Cram, who has been out of major competitions for a year, had regarded the 1,500 metres in Seattle as a key race in his build-up to defending his title over that distance in the European championships in Split, Yugoslavia, next month.



Blake (left) with Nehemiah after the race. (Reuter wirephoto)

Yankee fans seek ouster of Steinbrenner

NEW YORK, July 20, (Reuters): He is the man you love to hate — "the Boss." He pays well but he runs baseball's version of the Bronx zoo, a team with a revolving door for players, managers, executives and even secretaries who offend him.

Now may be even the boss himself will get the boot and an awful lot of New Yorkers are delighted at the prospect that they may not have George Steinbrenner to kick around any more.

Steinbrenner owns the New York Yankees, once the proudest and mightiest team in all of baseball, and now so firmly entrenched in last place that fans see only one solution — sack the "Boss."

In baseball, normally, the one person you can't dismiss is the owner. But a lot of fans, especially the restless, sure and masochistic group that gathers at Yankee Stadium to shout obscenities at Steinbrenner, are pinning their hopes on Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent.

Vincent is trying to find out why Steinbrenner paid gambler Howard Spira \$40,000 and whether this act "was in the best interests of baseball."

Spira is charged in a federal court with trying to extort money from Steinbrenner.

The commissioner, who is expected to reach a decision next week, can clear Steinbrenner, suspend him from baseball or even order him to sell the team. A New York Newsday headline declared: "Hail Mary Time for Boss."

Spira says Steinbrenner paid him for "damaging information about former Yankee player Deke Wilefield, a star outfielder Steinbrenner signed to a \$10 million contract a decade ago and then came to loathe with a hatred more befitting Greek tragedy than a baseball diamond."

Steinbrenner, in publicly released testimony before Vincent, gave several reasons. All contradicted his original claim that he wanted to help Spira get a fresh start in life.

Steinbrenner says he paid Spira because he feared he might "just get a gun and kill somebody" or might reveal that two Yankee executives were fired for "stealing" or that onetime Yankee manager Lou Pinella gambled.

Pinella, who was fired twice by Steinbrenner as manager and once was accused by the boss of stealing furniture, exploded at the comments as did one of the executives. Vincent cleared Pinella of any problem with gambling.

Since taking over the Yankees in 1973, Steinbrenner has averaged hiring and firing at least a manager a year. He has also fired more executives than any other owner in baseball history.

Yankee great Yogi Berra vows never to set foot in Yankee Stadium as long as Steinbrenner owns the Yankees.

Rose jailed

Baseball hero gets five months



Rose: also fined \$50,000

CINCINNATI, July 20, (Reuters): Baseball hero Pete Rose, his career already in tatters, was sentenced yesterday to five months in prison and fined \$50,000 for cheating on his taxes.

"It is very shameful to be here today before you," Rose, who was banished from the sport 11 months ago because of his gambling, told the court before he was sentenced.

"I've lost my dignity, my self respect, my dear fans and a lot of good friends," he added. Worst of all, he said, "my wife will have to tell my five-year-old son that your daddy is a jailbird."

Rose, who holds several of the sport's all-time records, was ordered to report on August 10 to federal prison camp in Ashland, Kentucky.

The start of the jail term was delayed so Rose, 49, can undergo surgery for a knee injury he suffered during a friendly baseball game at a family reunion on the weekend.

Rose pleaded guilty earlier this year to charges of filing false income tax returns in 1985 and 1987, involving failure to report more than \$354,000 in income from personal appearances, the sale of baseball memorabilia and gambling.

He could have been sentenced to as much as six years in prison and fined \$500,000 for the offences. He has already paid \$366,000 in back taxes.

"I hope I can make it up to everybody that I've disappointed," said Rose. His voice broke several times as he spoke in court and he came close to sobbing.

Rose was also ordered to serve one year's probation and spend 1,000 hours of community service working with inner city youth in Cincinnati, his home town and the city where he gained his greatest fame as a player.



Sanchez: fought back after the first set

Sanchez reaches 3rd round

NEWPORT, Rhode Island, July 20, (UPI): Top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario capitalised on her opponent's mental letdown yesterday and rallied for a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 second-round victory over, unseeded Brenda Schultz at the \$225,000 Virginia Slims of Newport.

In the first set, Sanchez had trouble handling Schultz' bullet serves. But then the Dutchwoman lost her first-serve accuracy and was broken in the first and third games of the last two sets.

"You fight like crazy to win (the first set), and then you relax in the wrong way," lamented Schultz, who said she felt different in the opening game of the second set. "In the first game it was like something was gone."

Sanchez, ranked No. 7 in the world, agreed that the second-set opener was pivotal.

"I really concentrated in the first game of the second set," said the Spaniard. "And after that I had a lot of confidence that I could play better and better."

Sanchez, who won the French Open in 1989, does not consider herself a good grass-court player. She was a first-round loser at Wimbledon last month. But in two rounds at Newport, site of the only grass-court stop on the women's US pro circuit, she has shown flashes of serve-and-volley prowess.

Today, Sanchez was to play unseeded Meredith McGrath. McGrath advanced by topping Wendy White-Prausa, 6-3 6-2.

Also advancing were No. 4 seed Ros Fairbank-Nideffer, a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, winner over Audra Keller and Australian Liz Smylie, a 7-5, 6-3 winner over South African Robyn Field.

Fairbank-Nideffer, ranked 25th, trailed 3-0 in the third set but lost only five points the rest of the way against the 117th-ranked Keller, who prefers to stay on the baseline.

Fairbank-Nideffer, a four-time semifinalist at Newport, said her early struggles against Keller were due to a lack of intensity.

Andretti seen as the man to beat

TORONTO, July 20, (AP): Michael Andretti is making his move and both defending Indy-car champion Emerson Fittipaldi and current series leader Rick Mears say the second-generation star is going to be hard to slow down.

Andretti, who led races but couldn't win them early in the season, has won three of the last four heading into this weekend's Molson Indy race at the Canadian National Exposition.

He won last Sunday from the pole at the New Jersey Meadowlands, moving into a tie for second-place in the current standings with Fittipaldi.

Mears, who has won just once this season, has 101 points, while Andretti and Fittipaldi, winless so far, each have 88. AJ Unser Jr. is next with 85, followed by Bobby Rahal 79.

"This race is probably about as wide open as it's ever been, with so many people in contention halfway through the season," Mears said. "I don't think that's going to change much at all as we get closer to the end."

"The thing is, though, if Michael stays hot, he's going to be the guy to beat. He seems to be fast just about everywhere we go."

Fittipaldi said, "I think Michael has the hot hand right now. If he wins more of the summer races, it could be hard to keep up with him."

"But with the competition is so strong, somebody else might get this hot soon. Maybe me."

The 27-year-old Andretti, hopeful of winning his first CART-PPG championship, said, "At least we seem to be on the right track now. I got tired of having to make excuses about things going wrong."

"But this business is so fickle. You never know. It can turn right around again."

Crashed Andretti won two straight races — at Detroit and Portland — but had an electrical problem on the first lap at Cleveland. Then, after a long stop for repairs, he crashed and wound up last.

"What hurt there was that if we just could have kept running, we might have got some points. I've seen one point can be the difference in a year like this."

Andretti won last year's Molson Indy race on the 1.78-mile, 11-turn temporary road circuit. It was a wild race, with Andretti leading off an attempted pass for the lead by Fittipaldi two laps from the end.

Practice and provisional qualifying were scheduled today, with the final round of time trials tomorrow and the 103-lap, 183-mile race Sunday.

Easy Goer quits

LXINGTON, Kentucky, July 20, (Reuters): Easy Goer, which started last season as strong favourite to capture the Triple Crown but won only the Belmont Stakes, is being retired due to a foot injury, trainer Shug McGaughey announced on Wednesday.

Easy Goer was found to have a bone chip in his right front foot after handlers noticed a swelling in his ankle following a workout in preparation for a rematch next month against his old rival Sunday Silence. McGaughey said in a statement.

Orioles brush aside White Sox

NEW YORK, July 20, (AP): Cal Ripken is amazed that he's now considered a defensive-oriented shortstop.

"I've been looked at as an offensive guy who just happened to play shortstop because they wanted another bat in the lineup, so I'm happy to do something on defense," Ripken said after tying a Major-League record by finishing his 88th consecutive errorless game at shortstop.

He also drove in two runs with a first-inning double as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Chicago White Sox 4-1 last night.

John Mitchell (2-2), who benefited from three double plays, allowed seven hits in a 8½ innings before being relieved by Gregg Olson, who retired Scott Fletcher for his 21st save.

Ripken, who hasn't made an error since April 13, matched Kevin Elster's string of successive games at shortstop without an error. Elster set the mark with the Mets from July 1988 to May 1989.

Ripken snapped a 1-for-11 slump with the score tied 1-1 in the first inning with his two-run, opposite-field double off Adam Peterson (0-2). Baltimore's other two runs came on homers by Phil Bradley and Mickey Tettleton. Tigers 1, Red Sox 0.

In Detroit, Jeff Robinson pitched a two-hitter for eight

innings and Larry Sheets' sixth-inning single scored Alan Trammell all the way from first base, lifting Detroit over Boston.

Robinson (7-7), who struck out four and walked five, lowered his earned run average from 5.67 and 5.23 with eight innings of shutout pitching.

Robinson outduelled Greg Harris (7-4), who allowed eight hits and pitched the second complete game of his career in 61 starts.

The only hits Robinson allowed were a first-inning single to Tom Brunansky and a fourth-inning single to Mike Greenwell.

With one out in the Detroit sixth, Trammell reached first with an infield single, his third hit of the game.

With sheets at the plate, Trammell broke for second, and sheets grounded the ball through the role vacated by shortstop Tim Lincecum. Trammell never slowed down and easily beat centre fielder Kevin Romine's throw.

Yankees 2, Twins 1 In Minneapolis, Tim Lincecum snapped an eight-game losing streak and New York scored both of its runs on a fifth-inning error by Minnesota shortstop Greg Gagne.

Leary (4-12), who hadn't won

since May 23 when he beat the Twins 12-0 on a four-hitter in the Metrodome, allowed eight hits in 7½ innings.

After giving up a run in the second, Leary blanked the Twins on five hits in the next 5½ innings before being relieved by Greg Cadaret with runners at first and third with one out in the eighth.

Cadaret forced a double-play grounder before Dave Righetti pitched the ninth, his 499th career appearance, and earned his 20th save in 22 opportunities.

The appearance moved Righetti past Hall of Famer Whitey Ford to first place on the Yankees' all-time list for pitching appearances.

Brewers 4, Mariners 0 In Milwaukee, Mike Felder and Greg Vaughn hit first-inning home runs as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Seattle Mariners 4-0 in a game that took nearly six hours to complete because of rain.

After the game's start was delayed by rain for three hours and three minutes, Felder hit the second pitch thrown by Seattle's Randy Johnson for his first homer since Sept. 26, 1989 to give Milwaukee a 1-0 lead.

Two outs later, Seattle third baseman Edgar Martinez dropped a slicing line drive off the bat to Dave Parker for an error and

Vaughn followed with his eighth homer of the year, boosting the lead to 3-0.

Standings American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	49	41	.544	—
Toronto	49	43	.533	1
Cleveland	44	46	.489	5
Detroit	44	49	.473	6½
Baltimore	43	48	.473	6½
Milwaukee	41	48	.461	7½
New York	33	45	.375	15

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	58	33	.637	—
Chicago	54	33	.621	2
Seattle	47	46	.505	12
California	45	47	.489	13½
Texas	44	47	.484	14
Minnesota	43	49	.467	15½
Kansas City	40	49	.449	17

Yesterday's games:

National League	W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	53	35	.602	—
New York	51	36	.586	1½
Montreal	50	42	.543	5
Philadelphia	44	44	.500	9
Chicago	40	52	.435	15
St. Louis	38	53	.418	16½

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	56	32	.636	—
San Francisco	49	41	.544	8
Los Angeles	44	45	.494	12½
San Diego	38	50	.432	18
Houston	38	53	.418	19½
Atlanta	35	53	.398	21

Yesterday's games:

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	6	5	.545	—
St. Louis	8	5	.615	2
Houston	4	6	.400	3

Skoff defeats Gomez

STUTTGART, West Germany, July 20, (UPI): Horst Skoff of Australia defeated French Open champion Andres Gomez of Ecuador 7-5, 6-6, 6-4 yesterday in the third round of the \$1 million Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart, West Germany.

Gomez's defeat was the second big surprise in a week that saw the comeback attempt of former world No. 1 Mats Wilander frustrated by Franco Davin of Argentina Wednesday.

Skoff snatched the first set 7-5 from Gomez, the world No. 5 and tournament top seed, but Gomez struck back in the second, winning it 6-4. However Skoff was not to be denied and he wrapped up the match 6-4 in the third and deciding set.

As Gomez packed his bags, the day turned into a highpoint in the career of West German Eric Jelen.

By downing Argentinian Franco Davin 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 in just over two hours, Jelen moved into the quarterfinals of the Stuttgart tournament, his biggest success yet on a clay court.

In the quarterfinals, Jelen will meet Yugoslavia's Goran Ivanisevic, who powered his way through the third round with a 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 win against Wally Masur of Australia.



Rostagno, also beat McEnroe in Wimbledon tourney

Rostagno upsets McEnroe again



Skoff: reaches quarterfinals

WASHINGTON, July 20, (Reuters): John McEnroe suffered his second straight disappointment at the hands of fellow American Derrick Rostagno yesterday and the former world number one was beginning to question his chances of a return to top form.

The third-seeded McEnroe dropped his third round match at the \$550,000 Washington Tennis Classic 6-3 1-6 6-1 to the 113th-ranked Rostagno, who handed McEnroe an embarrassing first round Wimbledon defeat earlier this summer.

"The hurt of losing when you get older is much worse than the excitement of winning," lamented 12th-ranked McEnroe. "This puts me much further back. I'm fighting myself, now."

Fourth seed and defending champion Tim Mayotte also suffered a third round upset in sweltering heat and high humidity when he let a 6-2-4-2 lead slip away and fell to fellow American Todd Witsken, the 14th seed, 2-6 6-4 7-5.

Three other seeded Americans safely reached the quarterfinals with relative ease.

Top seeded Andre Agassi ousted Israeli Gilad Bloom 6-1 7-5 in the featured night match, second seed Brad Gilbert eliminated 16th-seeded Canadian Andrew Sznajder 6-2 6-3 and fifth-seeded

former French Open champion Michael Chang breezed past Australian Simon Youl 6-1 6-1 in just 56 minutes.

Following Wimbledon McEnroe declared he would "kick his butt" if he met Rostagno again. But the former world number one never came close to making good his promise.

Rostagno came out hot, grabbing a 3-0 lead, and never let McEnroe into the first set.

The pro-McEnroe crowd came alive when the third seed raced to a 6-1 second set win. But it was more a letdown by Rostagno than McEnroe hitting his stride that sent the match into a third set.

The old John McEnroe would have ridden his second set momentum to an easy third set victory, but instead Rostagno immediately shook off his middle set blues.

Rostagno broke McEnroe with a crafty backhand crosscourt volley on his second break point in the second game. He captured McEnroe's serve again in the fourth game with a reflex forehand volley that gave him a huge 4-0 lead and he never looked back.

"I feel I concentrate better against certain players," who is 2-2 against McEnroe. "I don't know what the determining factors are, but I do better against some players."

Today, Sanchez was to play unseeded Meredith McGrath. McGrath advanced by topping Wendy White-Prausa, 6-3 6-2.

Also advancing were No. 4 seed Ros Fairbank-Nideffer, a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, winner over Audra Keller and Australian Liz Smylie, a 7-5, 6-3 winner over South African Robyn Field.

Fairbank-Nideffer, ranked 25th, trailed 3-0 in the third set but lost only five points the rest of the way against the 117th-ranked Keller, who prefers to stay on the baseline.

Fairbank-Nideffer, a four-time semifinalist at Newport, said her early struggles against Keller were due to a lack of intensity.

Neto sold to Napoli for \$2m

SAO PAULO, Brazil, July 20, (AP): The Corinthians soccer club announced Wednesday the sale of star midfielder Neto to Italy's Napoli club to replace Argentine star Diego Maradona.

Napoli will pay \$2 million for Neto, who is expected to sign a two-year contract, Joao Bosco of the Corinthians soccer department told the Associated Press.

Bosco said the sale was negotiated by Argentine businessman Guillermo Coppola and Alberto Luffu, representing Maradona.

"We were going to deal directly with Coppola, but Maradona insisted on a deal with Napoli," he said.

Bosco said Napoli will pay \$300,000 on Aug. 8, and Neto will fly to Italy for medical examinations Aug. 16. The club is to pay the balancing due on Aug. 26, he said.

Napoli also will pay Neto 15 per cent of the transfer price to which he is entitled under Brazilian law, Bosco said.

The acquisition of Neto raises a problem for Napoli. The team already has the legal limit of three foreign players, with Maradona and Brazilian stars Careca and Alemão.

However, the sporting press has reported that Maradona is negotiating his transfer to Olympique of Marseille, France.

"Maradona might play one more season with Napoli," Bosco said. "In that case, Neto would be loaned to another team for a year."

The Brazilian player will continue on Corinthians until the end of the Sao Paulo State Championship in September, Bosco said. Although his contract has expired, Neto will be covered by an insurance policy worth 15 million cruzeiros, or about \$170,000, he said.

Neto is the idol of Corinthians, one of Brazil's most popular clubs. He is best known as a brilliant ball handler and passer but also has a strong left-footed shot and one of the team's leading scorers.

Former soccer great Pele compared Neto to Gerson on Brazil's 1970 World Cup championship team.

In 1989, Neto was named to the national team but later was left off the World Cup squad. He openly protested that the team needed a field general and that he deserved the spot — an opinion shared by many soccer experts.

The player, who battles a tendency to gain weight, said he realized the rugged, close-checking European soccer was different from the slower Brazilian style.

"I have to adapt to Italian soccer to be recognised as Neto, not as somebody's substitute," he said.

Careca, the star centre-forward of Napoli and Brazil's national team, told the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper, "Neto is an expert, and if he uses his head he can be the idol of any major European club."

Bosco of Corinthians said Neto's transfer was part of a long-term plan by Maradona to invest in Brazilian players.

"Maradona wants to set up an operation here to transfer players to the United States, to open up the American market," Bosco said.

Manjrekar and Azharuddin shine

India rout England in opener

LEEDS, England, July 20, (Reuters): A magnificent innings from Sanjay Manjrekar took India to a comfortable six-wicket victory in their first one-day cricket international on Wednesday, overshadowing the return of former England captain David Gower.

Manjrekar's 82 capped an excellent performance by India, who replied to England's opening 229 in 54.3 overs with 233 for four in 53 overs at Yorkshire's Headingley ground.

The 25-year-old Bombay batsman has already proved his courage at the crease, taking two Test centuries off West Indies fast bowlers 18 months ago.

On Wednesday, he dealt just as confidently with England's Caribbean-born pace trio of Devon Malcolm, Phillip DeFreitas and Chris Lewis in a three-hour stay with seven boundaries.

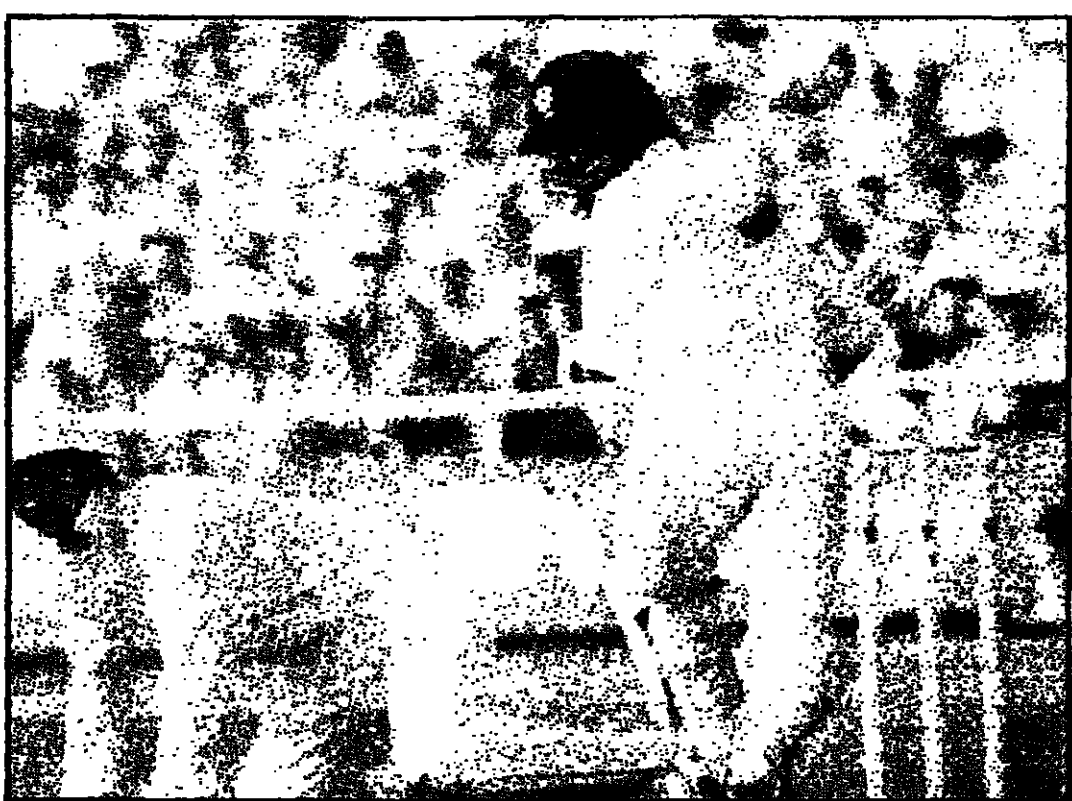
Mohammad Azharuddin, not out 55, and Ravi Shastri, unbeaten on 23, steered the Indians home.

Manjrekar's performance put Gower's earlier half-century firmly in perspective and made sure that England finished second best yet again at Headingley — they last favourite ground.

England have now lost four Tests and three one-day internationals at the ground since 1985 and have only briefly looked like improving that dismal sequence.

Apart from Gower, on his international recall, only captain Graham Gooch (45) and Allan Lamb (56) contributed significantly to a desperately disappointing total of 229 all out.

Even worse, their front line batsmen looked uneasy against a



Manjrekar hits the ball past England wicketkeeper Jack Russell. (Reuters wirephoto)

type of bowling which has mesmerised them so often before.

Gooch had started England's innings with a blaze of strokes, scoring 40 of the first 65 runs despite losing fellow opener Mike Atherton for seven in the eighth over.

But Anil Kumble, the bespectacled 20-year-old Indian leg spinner, put on a magical display to end with superb figures of two for 29 from 11 overs and a well-deserved Man-of-the-Match award in only his third one-day international.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND

G. Gooch c and b Shastri 45

M. Atherton lbw b Prabhakar 50

A. Lamb c Prabhakar b Kapil Dev 56

R. Smith c More b Kumble 6

J. Russell c Manjrekar b Kapil Dev 14

P. DeFreitas b Sharma 11

C. Lewis lbw b Prabhakar 6

E. Hemmings b Sharma 3

A. Fraser not out 4

D. Malcolm c Kapil Dev b Prabhakar 4

Extras (lb-5 w-9 nb-1) 15

Total (for four wickets, 53 overs) 229

Fall of wickets: 1-22 2-86 3-134 4-142 5-186 6-196 7-211 8-221 9-224

Bowling: Kapil Dev 11-1-49-2,

Prabhakar 10.3-1-40-3 Sharma 11-1-57-2, Shastri 11-0-40-1, Kumble 11-2-29-2.

INDIA

W. Raman c Atherton b DeFreitas 0

N. Sidhu lbw b Lewis 39

S. Manjrekar c Gower b Lewis 82

S. Tendulkar b Malcolm 19

M. Azharuddin not out 55

R. Shastri not out 23

Extras (lb-5 w-9 nb-1) 15

Total (for four wickets, 53 overs) 233

Fall of wickets: 1-1 2-76 3-115 4-183

Did not bat: K. More, Kapil Dev, M. Prabhakar, S. Sharma, A. Kumble.

Bowling: DeFreitas 10-1-40-1, Mal-

colm 11-0-57-1, Fraser 11-3-37-0, Lewis 10-0-58-2, Hemmings 11-0-36-0.

Top English cricketers have been invited to play exhibition games in New York and Toronto just two weeks before leaving for a 4 1/2 month international series in Australia.

According to the British domestic news agency Press Association, Gooch is among a squad who will play two one-day matches against the West Indies, rated the best team in the world, in late September.

The trip has worried members of the Test and County Cricket Board, which runs the game in England.

"We are a bit concerned about one or two players getting injured before they set off for Australia," said TCCB spokesman Peter Smith.

"But there is nothing we can do about it. The players are not under contract to us. They have contracts with their counties but they expire at the end of the season."

But Gower, another of those invited, says there is no risk of injuries.

Gower said that the tour had been organised through the American cricket authorities and would appeal to the many British people living in North America.

"The matches are not going to be played at the full pace of international cricket. It's only exhibition stuff and there shouldn't be any worries about injury."

Invited along with Gooch and Gower are Allan Lamb, Devon Malcolm, Derek Pringle and David Capel — all present or recent members of the English national team.

Australians set to stretch All Blacks

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, July 20, (Reuters): Australia look set to stretch the world champion All Blacks in tomorrow's first rugby union Test as New Zealand reel from the shock omission of captain Wayne Shelford.

The Australians have lost two of their three tour matches so far. But they pose nonetheless the only realistic threat to the All Blacks' supremacy, already jolted by two narrow home victories over Scotland earlier this season.

New Zealand, who won the inaugural World Cup in 1987, have not lost a test since a defeat to France in 1986 and beat Australia 24-12 and 30-9 in their last two encounters.

But bets are even for the Christchurch test, the first in a series of three. Australia, fresh from a series win over France, have added to New Zealand concern by naming just one new cap and a forward pack that outweighs the All Blacks by a stone (six kg) a man.

The All Blacks will be captained by lock forward Gary Whetton for the first time in an international.

Whetton, a veteran of 44 tests, is under no illusions about replacing Shelford, who was dropped last week after almost three years. "I think the team realises now that there is pressure on for players," he said.

The All Blacks made an unprecedented start to their test build-up on Wednesday by playing a second string Canterbury provincial side. "I think we needed to pinpoint our weaknesses and sort them out," said Whetton.



Graeme Hick



Neil Fairbrother

Somerset suffer as Hick hits out

LONDON, July 20, (Reuters): Zimbabwean Graeme Hick made Somerset's bowlers suffer again yesterday with an unbeaten 171 for Worcestershire in the English county championship.

Hick, who qualifies for England next summer, has now hit five championship centuries in six years against Somerset, totalling 1,389 runs at an average of 126.

His 171 at Worcester came off 250 balls and included 29 fours and a six. He shared two century stands with Damien D'Oliveira and Phil Neale, to steer Worcestershire to 300 for three declared.

Somerset, 98 ahead on first innings, were 66 for no wicket at the close.

Neil Fairbrother, dropped by England after a disappointing Test series against New Zealand, continued his brilliant county form with a double century out of Lancashire's 332 for eight declared against Warwickshire at Coventry.

His unbeaten 203 took him past 1,000 runs for the season. Warwickshire, 42 ahead on first innings, closed at 51 for two.

Former England captain Mike Gatting fell 14 runs short of his first championship hundred of the season as Middlesex took a 97-run first innings lead over Yorkshire at Uxbridge.

Middlesex made 340, Keith Brown hitting a top score of 109. Nottinghamshire were spared the indignity of losing inside two days against Hampshire at Portsmouth by uncapped Keith Saxelby.



Mike Gatting



Keith Brown

Baltic athletes to remain part of Soviet Games team

SEATTLE, July 20, (AP): Athletes from the independence-minded Baltic states will be part of the Soviet Union's delegation to the 1992 Olympic Games, the top Soviet sports official said Wednesday.

Nikolai Rusk, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport, or Goskomsport, said the International Olympic Committee has told the republics that it will not interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union.

"My answer is that Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia will compete in the Soviet team in the Goodwill Games and in Barcelona in 1992," Rusk said through an interpreter at a news conference.

The IOC leadership, following an April meeting with some Baltic leaders, sent messages to the sports officials of those countries that "this is a purely political question" and that IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch will not interfere in Soviet affairs.

The Supreme Soviet is also discussing the issue within the context of political reform, he said.

Marseille tipped to retain French title

PARIS, July 20, (Reuters): A revamped Marseille will once more be hot favourites to take the title when the French soccer league championship gets under way tomorrow.

Bernard Tapie, the club's flamboyant entrepreneur chairman, has made several changes in the team that clinched a second consecutive French championship in May but failed to fulfil his dream of a European crown.

Marseille's campaign in the 1990 European Cup ended controversially when Angolan Vata Garcia scored with his hand the goal that earned Benfica of Portugal a final berth against AC Milan of Italy.

Capable Tapie, who last year spent a record 140 million francs (\$25 million) to build a team capable of winning the European Cup, has said the 1990-1991 Marseille will be even better.

The businessman set a French transfer fee record when he bought Yugoslav international Dragan Stojkovic for 49 million francs (\$8.85 million) from Red Star Belgrade.

But Stojkovic, the leading Yugoslav in the World Cup finals, is just one star among many in a club that stars a new European campaign against Albanian champions Dynamo Tirana in September.

He will play alongside fellow World Cup player Briton Chris Waddle and Carlos Moez of Brazil. All three are taking a



Dragan Stojkovic



Chris Waddle

short break after the Italy finals and will be out of Marseille's first league match against Nice.

Tapie, who recently bought 80 per cent of the sports products giant Adidas, has also strengthened his team with some French blood.

Defenders Bernard Casoni and Basile Boli, and midfielder

Bernard Pardo, were bought to join striker Jean-Pierre Papin and Manuel Amoros, all teammates in the French national squad.

On top of that, Eric Cantona, France's most talented player, has come back to the club after a one-year spell with Montpellier, whom he helped to their first ever

win in the French Cup.

Cantona, who left Marseille in 1989 after a clash with Gerard Gili, the team's coach, will play in an impressive front line along with Papin, last year's top league marksman with 30 goals, and Waddle.

Meanwhile, Tapie has dropped several players who did not

meet the high standards he sets for Marseille. One of them, French international Didier Deschamps, has been loaned to arch-rivals Bordeaux.

Uruguayan Enzo Francescoli left for Italian club Cagliari to avoid being relegated to the substitutes' bench as the French championship's rules do not allow more than two players from outside European Community countries in one club.

No figures have been released for Tapie's buying spree this year. But Marseille, who can rely on strong attendances, appear to be the only healthy club in a league beset by economic problems.

Most of the clubs are heavily indebted and have had to scale down their ambitions this year. Besides Stojkovic, only a few foreign stars will be making their French debuts this season.

One of them, Dutch striker Wim Kieft, has joined Bordeaux, who have also signed Belgian international Michel Vervoot from Anderlecht.

Race

Monaco, who along with Bordeaux are Marseille's leading opponents in the title race, have gone to Italy to buy diminutive Portuguese striker Rui Barros from Juventus.

Newly-appointed Nancy will rely on another former Juventus player, Soviet Alexander Zavarov, to stay in the first division.

Khalifa ready for Jordan Raid

THE BP 2000 Jordan Raid, the third round of the 1990 Marlboro Desert Challenge takes place on July 26/27 in the Hashemite kingdom and by all accounts, it looks as if it is going to be a thrilling encounter between Suhail Bin Khalifa in a Marlboro Mitsubishi Pajero and Saeed Al Hajri in a Ford Bronco. Al Hajri is currently leading the series.

Following the resignation from the team of the reigning Marlboro Desert Challenge champion Abbas Al Mossawi, it is Suhail Bin Khalifa who now spearheads Ralliat Middle East's efforts to win the title for the third consecutive year, with Mamdouh Khayat of Saudi Arabia piloting the team's second Pajero.

However, in Jordan the Marlboro sponsored Khalifa will have his work cut out for him against the brilliant former Middle East title holder Al Hajri, who won the BP 2000 Trophy in Oman in style last March. The event is important for both drivers because at the half-way stage in the season, a victory will give either of them a boost in their championship aspirations.

The two-day event comprises eight special stages, totalling 284.35 kilometres, with the stage average at 56.17 kilometres — the longest in Middle East rallying. The longest stage will be the 74.22 km Mudeissat stage while the shortest will be the Iraq Al Amir stage which will be repeated twice.

So far, twenty-two entries have been received for BP 2000 Jordan Trophy, with a strong cross-section of the Middle East represented. Dubai, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the host nation will all field participants in the event with no less than seven of these from Qatar.

Leading the local challenge will be Mazen Dajani who will pilot a Nissan Patrol. Dajani is currently running second overall in the Fisa Middle East Championship to Mohammed Bin Sulayem.



Suhail Bin Khalifa

The first leg of the BP 2000 Jordan Raid takes place on July 27 starting at 3.00pm when half of the eight special stages will be completed. The event restarts at 10.00am on Friday, July 27 and finishes at 5pm the same evening. A wide range of vehicle manufacturers are represented in the event — Mitsubishi, Lada, Daihatsu, Range Rover, Ford and Nissan.

World title fight being deliberately delayed, says Holyfield's promoter

LAS VEGAS, July 20, (AP): Evander Holyfield's promoter charged hotel operator Steve Wynn on Wednesday with trying to delay the heavyweight title fight between Holyfield and James "Buster" Douglas so Douglas would have a better chance of win-

ning. Dan Duva made the accusation the same day he asked a judge in New Jersey to order Wynn's Mirage Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas to keep its original Sept 21 date for the championship fight.

The motion will be heard Aug 3 in New Jersey Superior Court before judge Amos Saunders, who earlier this year blocked the Mirage from interfering with purse bids for the Holyfield-Douglas fight. Duva claimed the Mirage stands to

lose up to \$12 million on the Douglas-Holyfield fight and can only make it up if Douglas wins and fights former champion Mike Tyson in a rematch at the resort. "It's clear to me the Mirage wants Douglas to win this fight," Duva said.

"They have a vested interest in Douglas winning because if he doesn't, they'll lose millions of dollars."

Wynn, however, scoffed at the accusation and said the only reason he

wants the fight delayed until Oct 25 is to give the resort English time to properly promote the bout.

"My contract specifies a Sept 21 date for the bout," Holyfield said in court papers. "I have no contract for a

fight on Oct 25." Wynn, who won a purse bid by putting up \$32 million to host the fight, announced the new fight date on Tuesday after settling a breach of contract suit brought against him and Douglas by King.

Indians triumph again

NOTTINGHAM, England, July 20, (Reuters): India beat England by five wickets in the second one-day cricket international at Trent Bridge today to win the two-match series 2-0. India also won the first international one-day match (details on Page 21) on Wednesday.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND	
G. Gooch b Prabhakar	7
M. Atherton c More b Prabhakar	59
A. Lamb run out	25
R. Smith b Shastri	3
R. Russell c Asharuddin b Kapil	103
DeFreitas c Veerasankar b Sharma	50
C. Lewis lbw b Prabhakar	1
G. Smith c Asharuddin b Kapil	7
E. Hemmings run out	0
A. Fraser not out	0
Extras (b-1 lb-12 w-8 nb-1)	22
Total (55 overs, innings closed)	281
Fall of wickets: 1-12 2-47 3-62 4-173 5-246 6-254 7-275 8-280 9-281	
Bowling: Kapil Dev 11-2-40-2, Prabhakar 11-0-26-3, Sharma 10-0-50-1, Shastri 11-0-52-1, Kumble 11-1-58-0, Tendulkar 1-0-10-0	
INDIA	
R. Shastri c Atherton b Hemmings	33
N. Sidhu b Small	23
Mushtaqur Rahman b Hemmings	59
D. Veerasankar b Lewis	54
M. Asharuddin not out	63
S. Tendulkar b Fraser	31
Kapil Dev not out	5
Extras (lb-5 w-9)	14
Total (for five wickets, 53 overs)	282
Fall of wickets: 1-42 2-69 3-166 4-186 5-249	
Did not bat: K. More, M. Prabhakar, S. Sharma, A. Kumble	
Bowling: Small 10-0-73-1, DeFreitas 11-0-59-0, Fraser 11-1-38-1, Hemmings 11-1-53-2, Lewis 10-0-54-1	

Sharon bridge

RESULTS of the Sharon Bridge Club game played on Tuesday. N/S: 1st Mrs Nahil Akel & Mr Mamdooh Sabri. 2nd Mr Sherin Bassyouni & Mr Alain Moussali. 3rd Dr Sadeq & Mr Zayed E/W: 1st Mr Mohammed Merchant & Mr Stanley Drexler. 2nd Mr Narendra Shah & Mr Khurshid Zubair. 3rd Mrs Beatrice Pereira & Mr Desmond Pereira.

Borg

STOCKHOLM, July 20, (Reuters): Property experts valued former tennis star Bjorn Borg's luxury waterfront villa today for public auction if he fails to pay a million-dollar debt. Swedish legal authorities said. The experts said the pink and yellow villa outside Stockholm would sell for well over the seven million crowns (\$1.18 million) Borg must pay on the unpaid portion of a loan to his former business partner, police commissioner Christina Robertson said.

Spanish club

ALBACETE, Spain, July 20, (Reuters): Costa Rica's World Cup goalkeeper Luis Caballero Conzaga joined Spanish Second Division club Albacete. "He cost us a lot of money," Albacete manager Juan Rodriguez said on Thursday. But he refused to give financial details of Conzaga's transfer from Costa Rican club Cartaginense.

Soviet coach

MOSCOW, July 20, (Reuters): The Soviet soccer federation on Wednesday appointed Dynamo Moscow trainer Anatoly Byshovets as the new national team manager. Byshovets, 44, was in charge of the Soviet Olympic team which won the gold medal in Seoul in 1988. He will succeed Valery Lobanovsky, who had already announced he would be stepping down after the World Cup.

Soviet players

MOSCOW, July 20, (AP): Oleg Protasov of Dynamo Kiev and Igor Dobrovolsky of Dynamo Moscow have been denied permission by the Soviet Soccer Federation to play for Greek club Olympiakos of Piraeus because they didn't meet age requirements and didn't inform soccer officials of the transfer.

Swedish striker

NORRKOPING, Sweden, July 20, (AP): Swedish striker Tomas Brodin, at 20 one of the youngest starters in the recent World Cup, said yesterday he has signed a three-year contract with Parma after the Italian First Division club paid record a \$2.5 million transfer fee.

Daniels wins

SEATTLE, Washington, July 20, (Reuters): Robert Daniels retained his World Boxing Association junior heavyweight title yesterday with a unanimous points decision over fellow American Craig Bodanowski in a slow-paced, 12-round bout.

Stewart ahead in Open

Ballesteros in danger of missing cut

ST ANDREWS, Scotland, July 20, (AP): US PGA champion Payne Stewart shot a 4-under par 68 to complete 36 holes in 8-under 136 today, taking the clubhouse lead by one stroke over James Spence early on the second day of the British Open.

Spence, a surprising Englishman inspired by his father's recovery from a major heart attack last Christmas and playing in the Open for the first time, was the first player out on the old course at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. He had an eight-bir-

die, one-bogey round of 65, the lowest of the tournament so far for a 7-under 137.

But Norman, the first-round co-leader with Michael Allen of the United States at 6-under 66, chopped three more shots (off par) on the front nine to take the lead at 9-under after 27 holes.

He had birdies at the fourth, seventh, eighth and ninth after a bogey-6 at the second.

Faldo, two holes behind among the late starters, birdied the second, fifth, sixth and seventh to stand 9-under.

Allen, meanwhile, lost a stroke at the second and another at the fourth, and was 4-under after 22 holes.

Moving to 8-under but not yet at the turn were Craig Parry of Australia and Ian Woosnam of Wales.

Also moving to 7-under but still on the course was Nick Price of Zimbabwe.

Having trouble, meanwhile, was defending champion Mark Calcavecchia and three-time champion Seve Ballesteros.

Both started the day 1-under

par. But Calcavecchia bogeyed the 10th, 14th and 16th, and took a double-bogey 6 on the 13th to fall 2-over for the tournament. Ballesteros, meanwhile, was 1-over with a double-bogey 7 at No. 14 and bogey-55 at 10 and 15.

They were in danger of missing the halfway cut. With low scores predominating, it looked as if the cut would be in the neighbourhood of even-par 144. In 1984, the last time the Open was held at the old course, the cut was 148.

After failing to qualify for the Open in five previous attempts and still feeling the effects from a bout of food poisoning last weekend, Spence was one stroke ahead of Jose-Maria Olazabal of Spain, who had a five-birdie round of 67; Scotland's Sam Torrance, and two from the United States, Jodie Mudd and Peter Jacobsen.

Mudd had an eight-birdie, two-bogey round of 66, while Jacobsen, who made a run at the lead Thursday, clipped two strokes off par for the 34 holes with a round of 70, the same as Torrance.

In the course at 7-under was Anders Sorensen of Denmark, who birdied the second, eagled the par-6 fifth, then birdied the seventh, ninth and 10th to move up the leader board with four holes left to play.

Other early finishers included three-time winner Jack Nicklaus, 3-under for the tournament after a second-round 7; Raymond Floyd and Ben Crenshaw at 1-under 143; Floyd with a second-round 71 and Crenshaw a 69; and Arnold Palmer, at 1-under 144 after a 1-under round of 71 in what will be his last Open.



Spain's Seve Ballesteros (right) and Tom Watson of the US contemplate their putts during the first round of the British Open. (Reuters wirephoto)

England fight back to defeat Tucuman

TUCUMAN, Argentina, July 20, (Reuters): England overcame Argentine rugby union regional champions Tucuman 19-14 (halftime 6-6) by scoring two penalties in the last 10 minutes of the second match of the English team's tour late on Wednesday.

Playing in an ill-lit, small pitch before 25,000 spectators in this city 1,300 km (800 miles) northwest of Buenos Aires, England fought an uphill battle to recover from its first match upset by Banco Nación.

Besides the crowd's deafening whistling, the visitors and even referee Jose Rolandi had to suffer a peculiar Tucuman tradition, the occasional orange hurled from the stands.

Coach Roger Utley was not happy with England's performance but said the team achieved the goal of clinching a victory.

"We took this as a third test, much more so after losing our debut match on Saturday," he said after the match. "That is why, even though we did not play as well as I expected, we can view the tour from a better perspective."

England fielded six veterans of the runners-up side of the latest Five Nations tournament for the toughest match they were due to play besides the two tests against the Argentine "Pumas." Captain Will Carling could not make the team due to a cold.

The visitors, whose sole try was scored by number eight Tim Rodber, did not control the ball for most of the match. Three penalties were converted by fullback Simon Hodgkinson and two by flyhalf David Pears.

Hodgkinson was injured in the ribs when catching a ball and meeting the oncoming Tucuman pack 50 minutes into the game and was replaced by Graham Childs.

Tucuman's strong pack, with five "Pumas," dominated the scrums and gave the locals the edge in the first half. Wingers and cousins Martin and Gabriel Teran scored two tries.

The English came back in the second half but still looking much in need of practice. English manager Geoff Cooke had made it clear he was using the tour to test young players before the 1991 World Cup.

Tomorrow the tourists will face Buenos Aires and on July 24 they are scheduled to play Cuyo, two lighter, less experienced regional teams.

They will face the Pumas on July 28 and August 4.

"If I don't have any problems with injuries, on Saturday against Buenos Aires I will field the team that will face the Pumas," Utley said.

The Pumas, meanwhile, were training round the clock. They are due to play a regional side, San Juan, on Sunday.

Rainey goes for 6th win of season

LE MANS, France, July 20, (Reuters): American Wayne Rainey, on a Yamaha, will be bidding for his sixth 500cc victory of the season at the French motorcycle grand prix on Sunday.

In the nine events so far, Rainey has never finished lower than second and has built a strong lead over compatriot Kevin Schwantz in the world championship standings.

Rainey heads the points with 168. Suzuki rider Schwantz is second with 133 after recording three wins.

Both riders can expect a tough challenge from Frenchman Jean-Pierre Ruggia, who is determined to prove on home ground that he can do even better than his second place behind Rainey in the rainswept Belgian grand prix two weeks ago.

Ruggia, also on a Yamaha, is still chasing his first 500 cc win. He is currently fourth in the standings, with 76 points.

But the pressure will be on Schwantz. Another win by Rainey would put the Yamaha rider in a very strong position to succeed compatriot Eddie Lawson as champion.

Twenty-three riders are due to take part in Sunday's race. Organisers said on Thursday they had not heard whether Spanish rider Sito Pons, who was injured in a crash in the Belgian grand prix, planned to enter.

Games need to prove worth

SEATTLE, Washington, July 20, (Reuters): The Goodwill Games, set up four years ago to promote East-West sporting links, began today needing to justify their place in the sporting calendar of a world that has left them behind.

The inaugural 1986 Games in Moscow brought the two sports superpowers, the United States and Soviet Union, together for the first time in 10 years after the boycotts of the 1980 Moscow and 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Now with the cold war officially over — and the two meeting once again in the Olympic arena — it is up to the athletes to prove that the Games are still needed.

Seventeen days of competition in 21 events and some high-calibre sporting duels could do just that.

Six-time Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis sprinting against his talented protégé, Leroy Burrell; Matt Biondi, winner of five 1988 Olympic

swimming golds, striving to avenge a narrow Seoul defeat to Anthony Nesty of Surinam in the 100 metres butterfly; and Soviet world champion Svetlana Boginskaya looking to hold off rising US gymnastics star Kim Zmeskal are among eagerly anticipated confrontations.

The core of the Games is still the US-Soviet encounters. Some 425 Soviet competitors and more than 480 Americans will be among the field of 2,500 athletes from nearly 50 nations.

Injuries, bad timing and money, however, have combined to deprive the Games of some of sport's biggest stars.

World record holder Sergei Bubka is doubtful for the pole vault because of back problems, while 400 metres world record holder Butch Reynolds, high jump record holder Javier Sotomayor of Cuba and British middle-distance star Steve Cram have all been ruled out through injury.

Kariuki detained

BARCELONA, July 20, (Reuters): Kenyan Olympic gold medalist Julius Kariuki was arrested in Barcelona's El Prat airport this week for currency irregularities but released a few hours later, local officials said yesterday.

Kariuki, who won the 3,000 metres steeplechase at the 1988 Seoul Games, was on his way on Tuesday from an athletics meeting in Barcelona to another in London when Spanish police found \$42,900 of undeclared cash in his luggage.

Under Spanish law, sums over 100,000 pesetas (\$1,000) in local currency or 500,000 pesetas (\$5,000) in foreign currency must be declared before they can be taken out of the country.

Kariuki won the steeplechase in Barcelona on Monday and was due to take part in a grand prix event in London today.

Chiappucci stays ahead of LeMond

LIMOGES, France, July 20, (AP): Overall leader Claudio Chiappucci kept his five-second advantage over Greg LeMond as the two raced nearly side-by-side for the entire 19th stage of the Tour de France today, leaving only two stages in the three-week race.

Guido Bontempi of Italy broke away from the small lead group near the end and won the 182.5-kilometre (113.5-mile) leg from Castillon la Bataille to Limoges in central France, finishing in five hours, 16 minutes and four seconds.

Chiappucci, who has worn the yellow jersey of the overall leader since July 11 but has been guarding a tenuous five-second lead for two days, and LeMond finished six minutes and three seconds behind Bontempi.

Temperatures again reached past 35 degrees Celsius (95F). Chiappucci and LeMond stayed together for much of the race with barely a bicycle length between them except for one brief moment when LeMond dropped back for a small mechanical problem. He quickly rejoined the pack and bounded Chiappucci's back wheel in the final kilometres.

The importance of today's stage will not compare to tomorrow's leg, a 45.5-kilometre (28.5-mile) individual time trial. The race will conclude Sunday in Paris on the Champs Elyses.

LeMond, who is seeking his third Tour de France title, has

slowly narrowed a large deficit accrued early in the race.

Nearly three weeks and 1,900 miles ago, Chiappucci was part of a four-rider breakaway that effectively gave them a 10-minute head start.

One-by-one they had their time in the spotlight — and one-by-one they were caught. Now

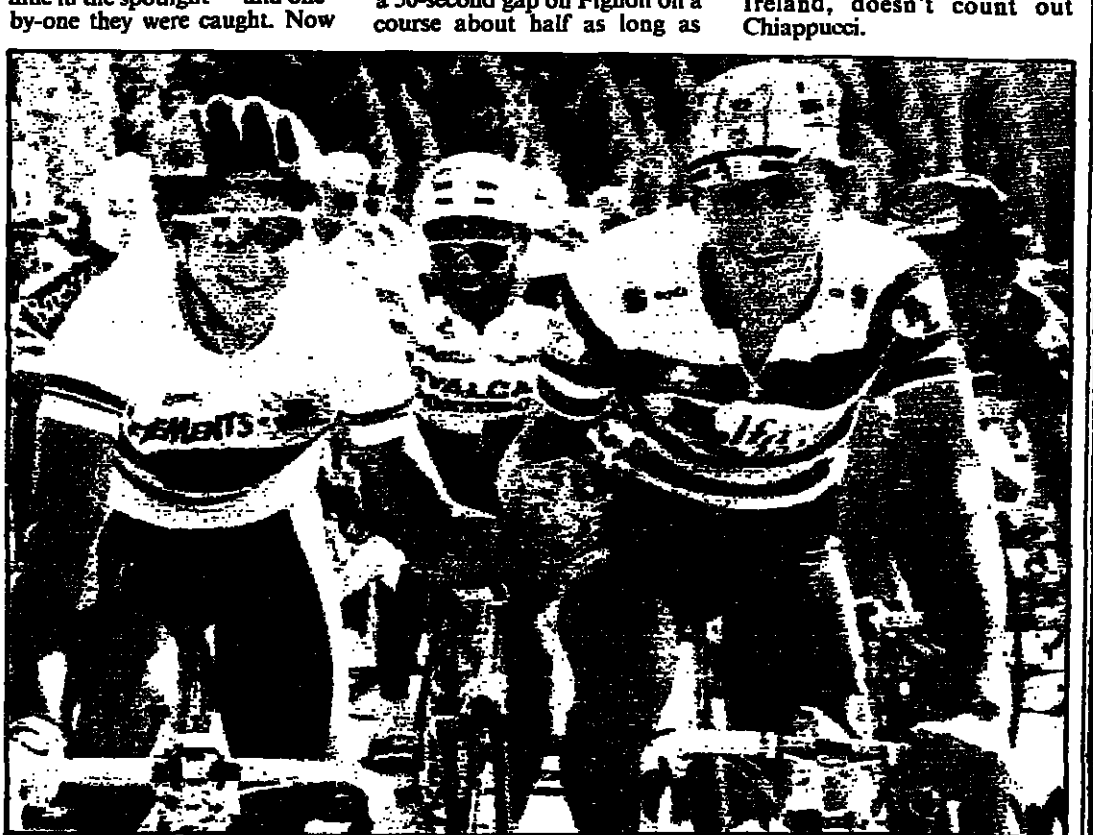
it's Chiappucci's turn, as LeMond closed to within five seconds with superior performances in the mountains.

LeMond has been pointing to Lac Vassiere for the chance to overtake the Italian. On the final day last year, LeMond wiped out a 30-second gap on Fignon on a course about half as long as

tomorrow's 28.5-mile circuit.

LeMond was unavailable for comment today as he cut himself off from the hordes of fans, followers, journalists and others who have been pressing him.

However, another former champion, Stephen Roche of Ireland, doesn't count out Chiappucci.



LeMond (left) rides hand in hand with Soviet Union's Dimitri Konyshov during Thursday's stage. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jockey fined

Former Hong Kong champion jockey Gary Murre, of Australia, was fined \$167,000 on Thursday and banned for life-and-a-half years from competition in the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club for betting corruption (Reuters wirephoto)